The TV-TS

Tapestry

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the journal for all persons interested in crossdressing & transsexualism

UPDATED DIRECTORY of ORGANIZATIONS and SERVICES

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ARTICLES
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THREE SHORT EDITORIALS:

'My Workshop'
'The Tri-Ess Issue'
'"Messed Up Kids"'

By: Merissa Sherrill Lynn

'My Workshop':

Robin Esch, the Programs Coordinator for the 1990 'Coming Together' convention, gently informed me that I was going to do a workshop entitled 'Symbiotic Synergism with the Gay Community and the Women's Movement'. My first reaction was, "ME?" Robin replied, "It was your idea!" "It was?" Come to think of it, it was. Oh dear, oh dear, what did I get myself into? Robin had caught me in a fit of idealism.

Ever since Gloria Wright introduced me to the term 'symbiotic synergism' (different people thrown together into the same environment, working together for the benefit of all), I have been using it as a guideline to direct IFGE's activities. When the proverbial ...t hit the fan concerning Armstrong's amendment to Senate Bill 933 (the one that lumps TV's, TS's, and gays with child molesters, drug pushers, etc., and denies us protection from discrimination in housing), it became obvious that we needed to fight for our rights. After numerous conversations with Sr Mary Elizabeth (the primary mover in bringing Bill 933 to our attention) and Robin, I asked myself, "Why stop with Senate Bill 933? Why not go after those issues that affect us all, issues such as the right to be who and what we are without fear, and the equal opportunity to be the best that we can be? Why not team up with those special interest groups that are also fighting for the same rights?" Robin said, "Right on!" I said, "How about a workshop on that specific issue?" Then in the middle of a rousing chorus of 'We Shall Overcome' Robin said, "Great! You're scheduled for 3:30 pm, Wednesday, March 28." I said, "Oooops!"

Well, I am now committed to the workshop. My reaction to that is, if I wasn't committed I certainly should be for ever volunteering for such a project. WE are going to work with the gay community and the women's movement??? The gay community is well organized and has a fairly clear idea of what their objectives are and how to achieve those objectives. The women's movement is the same. We don't even know who we are, much less have anything resembling an objective, or an organized movement. In IFGE's constitution we have identified the group of people we serve. That group includes people who cross-dress for whatever reasons (or want to), transsexually inclined people (pre- and post-op), partners, friends, and the support services. An identifiable group of people does not make a community. People caring about each other and willing to take care of each other and fight for each other's rights makes a community, and we simply haven't gotten that far yet. The more I thought about it, the more it sounded as though a total of three of us were going to team up with the Gay Community and the Women's Movement to solve the problems of the world. Like I said, if I wasn't committed for volunteering for such a project, I certainly should be.

(For the sake of communication, I'm going to refer to the above mentioned identifiable group as "our community".)

So, what do I expect to accomplish by having this workshop? Quite frankly, I can't wait to find out. I really can't see our community launching any kind of an effective program to combat our political and social ills, or being able to work effectively with other special interest groups. We have a lot of growing-up to do first. Therefore, I don't think any effort to get our community to seriously start working with the gay community and the women's movement is going to work, at least not yet. Oh, we may get a few scattered people willing to put out some effort, but for

Merissa Sherrill Lynn with Dr. Stan Dale, Founder of the Human Awareness Institute
Photo credit: Marlette Pathy Allen

the most part our people are going to remain closeted and indifferent to the needs of others. However, where we are now is where the gay community and the women's movement were thirty years ago. They were searching for identity and purpose, much as we are now. They decided to fight for self-respect and the respect of others, much as we us are doing now. Like it or not we have an identity with the gay community. Many of the issues they are fighting for are ours as well, issues such as fair housing and the right to be who and what we are without falling victims of ignorance, prejudice, or a vicious homophobia. Many of the issues women are fighting for are our issues as well, equality without sacrificing our identity or falling victims to a false "masculine superiority/feminine inferiority" complex. In other words, if we are not yet strong enough to fight for our own issues, we as individuals can sure help the gay community and the women's movement fight for theirs, and in the process help ourselves.

Perhaps gaining a clearer understanding of the issues that affect us all would be the best focus of the workshop. Then again, I don't know of any event sponsored by our community that included an open dialogue with leaders of the gay community and women's movement. Perhaps that would be the best focus. Then again, since we are a community that doesn't really have its act together, perhaps we can learn from those who do. Like I say, I can't wait to find out what I'm going to do with this workshop, but whatever it is, I'll have fun doing it.

See you in March.

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The Tri-Ess Issue:

Once again I have been placed in the middle of a raging controversy concerning Tri-Ess. That's nothing new. There has been a raging controversy concerning Tri-Ess since I came out of the closet 16 years ago. I have been in the middle of that controversy for 15 years, ever since Linda Stevens wanted my group to become a chapter of IAMF, and Carole Mayfield wanted us to join Tri-Ess. Do we yes? Do we no? Do we do this... or that? I chose to do neither.

Let me give you a few examples of how I get put in the middle:

Recently a leader in Tri-Ess approached me and asked, "Do you support Tri-Ess?" "Absolutely!", I replied. "Are you a member?" "No!" "Would you like to join?" "Can't!" "Why?" "Because I'm not eligible. I'm a transsexually inclined individual who refuses to put a label my sexuality!" "Well, no one has to know." "I would know, and I refuse to lie in order to fit into anybody's group!" The individual then got all upset and accused me of not really supporting Tri-Ess, to which I was compelled to explain my position <u>one more time</u>.

As Editor of the Tapestry I have received a number of letters attacking Tri-Ess, and I refused to publish them. (I get a lot of letters attacking everybody and everything, and I usually refuse to publish them as well, but that's another issue.) Then I was attacked for not publishing the letters. In fact just a few days ago I had the author of one of those letters in my office yelling at me for not publishing her letter, to which I was compelled to explain my position <u>one more time</u>.

Recently the editor of a well-known newsletter has been campaigning to get Tri-Ess to become a more "open" organization. A supporter of hers became very irate when I refused to support her position. I then went to a major event and the comment that welcomed me was, "I want to see your horns and tail." (And a friendly howdy-doo to you too.) Apparently I was supposed to be serving as the cop of our community and shut that editor up, and by not doing so I was a bad person and anti Tri-Ess. I was compelled to explain my position <u>one more time</u>.

I suppose being Executive Director of IFGE makes me a natural target for special interest lobbyists, but it sure gets tiresome after a while. Our community is made up of a complex spectrum of different individuals, special interests, and needs. It is my job to serve our community as a whole, and get the different elements of our community to work together for the benefit of all. Therefore, I am not going to publish negative letters that tear down somebody else, nor am I going to come out in favor of one special interest group at the expense of another. Tri-Ess fills a niche on the spectrum. Granted, that niche leans a little towards the infra-red side, but that in no way diminishes its importance.

To tell you the truth, even though I'm not eligible to be a member and I strongly disagree with some of its policies, I <u>love</u> Tri-Ess. They are certainly one of the most successful organizations ever. With the possible exception of drag bars, they have helped more people out of the closet than anyone. Their leaders have written more books, been involved in more research projects, and have done more public speaking than anyone. When Sr Mary came to us for financial help to publish her 'Legal Aspects of Transsexualism', members of Tri-Ess dipped into their pockets and helped make it possible. Think about that for a minute.... Tri-Ess, a conservative heterosexual crossdressers' group, made it possible for us to publish a book exclusively dedicated to the needs of transsexuals. That's symbiotic synergism at its best.

To those who attack Tri-Ess I say, "Tri-Ess ain't broke, so don't try to fix it. Any changes to be made will happen naturally within the group itself with no help from you." To Tri-Ess I say, "You can be a little more tolerant and respectful of other people's differences, but that can be said of most everybody, including myself. You can also help other groups do a better job serving their people (and vise versa). However, for the most part, hurrah!... keep it up... and what can I do to help?"

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Messed-up Kids:

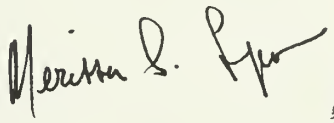
Recently Jane Fee (CLCC, MN), Jan Rupard (Boulton-Park, TX), Roni Lang (NWGA, OR), and Lee Francis

(Beta Chi, MS) appeared in front of 1400 people on the Sally Jesse Raphael Show. They were wonderful, and I'm very proud of them all. Usually I can't stand watching our people on talk shows because I have a burning desire to answer all the questions, and not being able to frustrates me. However these four gals did such a great job that I was happy to just sit back and watch the show, that is, until a lady who looked like a Merrill/Lynch broker stood up and said something like, "You can do what you want in private, but why do you have to go out in public? Our kids are messed-up enough already." As many people applauded her comment, the gals on stage answered her politely and I sat in my living room hopping up and down on my couch going, "Oooooo, oooooo, I want to answer that one!"

This is a slightly lengthened version of my answer: "When I was a kid I was caught by my parents and beaten. That led to 20 years of misery, two suicide attempts, a hatred for my parents and society's version of masculinity, and a lingering bitterness that goes right to my soul. Don't talk to me about messed up kids! I was one of them, but being a crossdresser didn't mess me up. my parents' anger and my own fear of what society would do to me messed me up! Crossdressing doesn't mess up kids, intolerance does.., and ignorance.., and hatred.., and fear. I am who and what I am; have been all my life and will be for the rest of my life. I am also a human being with a right to be who and what I am, with the right to the pursuit of happiness. It says so in the Bill of Rights. I am not going to condemn myself to a life of unhappiness simply because you don't want to see me. You can learn tolerance and can teach your kids tolerance, but I can't learn to be someone else. I was born male, but I prefer living my life as a woman. So what? There are thousands, perhaps millions of other people like me, and many of them are kids. Acknowledging that fact does not mess kids up. Hiding from it and denying it does."

The point of this response is... you are who and what you are, whether that be a cross-dresser, or a transgendered or transsexually inclined (pre- or post-op) person. You are also a human being with an equal right to happiness, and to be a respected and contributing member of society. That also means you must have the courage to fight for your rights, and be deserving of respect. If you are willing to submit to other people's intolerance and prejudices, you will never earn their respect, and you are condemning yourself. If you fight for your rights and do so with pride, courage, and dignity, you are not only fighting for yourself, you are fighting for those generations of people just like you. Next time someone tells you to go hide in a closet, stand up proud and defiant and say, "NO"!

-- My love to you all,



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(Edited from a speech given by Wendi at the 1989 'Texas T-Party' held in San Antonio. Wendi is the Chairperson of the IFGE Board of Directors, and recently completed her SRS with Dr. Biber in Trinidad, Colorado.)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

By: Wendi Danielle Pierce

Good evening.

I would first like to thank you for asking me to speak before this very impressive assemblage. Through events like this one, we all get a chance to grow a little and share our ideas, views and dreams.

We are only here for a brief period of time and in the last few years I have come to realize that time is a precious commodity. We spend so much of our lives hoping that moments and events will someday happen, or that we will someday be in a situation or position, and we lose sight of the fact that time is moving. If some of our dreams do come true (and sometimes they do), time becomes our ever present adversary. In my case, I have had a life-long dream fulfilled with respect to my desire to live and be accepted as a woman. I have made this transition in my career, in my private life, and in my budding public life. I am accepted and enjoy relating to society in this new role, and my life has gained new meaning.

I feel fortunate in that I possess certain qualities and attributes that have helped me to achieve my dream; my stature, my appearance, my voice, my gutsy nature, and probably my strongest attribute - an inner desire, almost an obsession, to be all I can be. We all possess the capacity to be all we can be. We may not all reach that summit, or grab that brass ring, but there are many achievements or steps in our life that are in line with our ultimate goals, and they can give us comfort and satisfaction as we move along. These steps on the ladder of life can also be very rewarding. They can give us the confidence to reach out a little farther to expand the envelope, possibly even to try other things that we never felt we could accomplish. When looked back on, steps on this ladder can be very satisfying in themselves, steps like accepting one's self, sharing emotions long locked inside, reaching out and establishing lines of communication, and the capacity to accept others and to judge people on their merits rather than their faults. These steps can all be rewarding and admirable attributes for us to attain and nurture.

I must apologize if I seem to preach at times, but these are concepts that I feel very strongly about, concepts which

(Wendi Danielle Pierce)

I enjoy sharing with others. I feel that many people in the gender community are overly concerned with the fact that when in the alternate-gender role, they are not accepted. My first efforts to come out of the come out of the closet were probably similar to your own. Some of them met with disastrous results. I remember one time when a friend and I entered a Denny's at 3am. We were verbally assaulted by a drunken cowboy. We hastily retreated out of the restaurant, but he followed us and continued to pursue his loud and abusive verbal attack. I did a lot of soul searching after that confrontation, asking myself, "Is this really worth it, or am I fighting a losing battle?" As a result of the incident I resolved that I would continue my growth and not let that person's attack destroy the fulfillment of a dream I'd had since childhood. I came to realize that this new and very desirable lifestyle would be the toughest challenge I might probably face in my life, but the reward, if achieved, would be worth all the humiliation and frustration.

I, as a transgendered individual, feel I am little understood by society in general and when discovered for what I am, I present a number of foreign and sometimes uncomfortable ideas to people. These ideas or concepts range from the simple face value things such as not knowing how to address me or simply feeling that I am weird, to some very deep and sensitive issues such as a person's own insecurity. My adoption of this alter-gender persona might also seem as I have become a traitor to masculine society.

Now I look back at old photos of myself and find it hard to believe that I felt I looked good enough to even contemplate coming out. Our self image is obviously tainted by what we want to see, not what a casual observer might see. The dichotomy here is that in order to measure our progress, we need the feedback being in public can provide. Therefore, in order for us to survive and move forward, we need to develop a tough skin and establish ways of dealing with rejection. If we become good students, and learn from our mistakes, we will make progress, progress is learning how to be "read" as the gender we desire to be, and progress in our own personal growth and self-understanding.

I was a good student. I was also, and still am, a good observer. I learned very quickly that my confidence level was a large contributing factor to my acceptance in this new role. Confidence is something that shows itself in many ways. Confidence is something that takes time to nurture. Confidence is something that one just cannot simply turn on. It has to come from within and it has to be genuine to be accepted. Confidence tells others that we are comfortable and that our persona is genuine. Also, when we exhibit confidence, it tends to mask faults that might otherwise destroy the image we want to project. How does one go about gaining this paramount trait? The key is practice, and perseverance. When a round is lost, when we are "discovered", an analysis of the situation, events, and our appearance should occur. If possible, the person or persons who "read" us might even be approached and asked what gave us away. Obviously, this type of query is only possible if we have attained a certain amount of confidence. If possible, though, the information we might attain could help us to correct the problem, so that it will not happen again.

Appearance is not the only thing we as cross-gender individuals need to concentrate on in order to successfully achieve our goals. These "other things" contribute to the successful adoption of a feminine role, either full or part time. Many of these points are very subtle points. Again, I am not speaking of the normal, "like a lady" body language, voice, or appearance topics. These are givens! I am speaking of the little things, attitudes, and attributes that are the cement holding the image together. Without that cement the large blocks are shaky and a little pressure in the wrong direction will cause the whole structure to crumble into ruins.

What are these "other things"? Take the typically boastful masculine "I can top that" attitude. Males have this drilled into them all their lives, starting in many cases with their fathers' stories about their past experiences. Women brag too, but it's not usually a contest to see who's the "king of the hill". Males are also prone to making sure everyone knows about "it", kind of like an animal repeatedly marking its territory. Women are usually more content to tell a few people and wait for the word to spread.

Men are apt to be into "things", while women are more apt to be involved with relationships, feelings, and emotions. Women freely discuss their feelings while men don't. Generally relationships are key to a woman's happiness and state of well being, while for men relationships are subservient to career, physical accomplishments, and other creature comforts. Women are influenced by their emotions to a higher degree than men. Men are taught not to show emotions, not to let their vulnerable inner self show. Being the strong person, able to fight battles and protect the home front, even if it is only one's self image, is difficult if not impossible when one is vulnerable. Why then have so many women succeeded in the social structure? I feel the key is not the openness of one's emotional being but the understanding of this being and the ability to understand the emotions of those around us. Being sensitive to others and relating to them appropriately, is a feminine approach. This is the one single attribute that will mark a person as feminine in a social environment.

What other "things" contribute to a person being identified as feminine? Attention to detail comes to mind. Details apply to our lives in many ways. Detail can be the arrangement of a room. Detail can be the inclusion of persons at an event. Detail can even be the way one's clothes fit or the color coordination of an outfit. Neatness and cognizance of detail can go hand in hand, but one is not synonymous with the other. I feel neatness is an innate trait and cognizance of detail tends to be more of a learned behavior. Being cross-gender individuals, detail is very important. Details are the things that will make or break that alter image that we wish to pursue. This is a skill we must endeavor to gain. Are there more "things"? You bet! Aggressiveness and arrogant behavior are not usually acceptable as feminine traits. Assertiveness and being confident are alternatives that will not draw as much attention to us. However, there is a fine line that we as trans-gender individuals should not cross, lest we be singled out for closer examination, and possible discovery, Aggressiveness is a trait that males are taught will bring them success and praise all their lives, and it becomes so incorporated in a male's personality that it can be very hard to suppress. Along with aggressiveness, usually comes the need to dominate, to tell others what is "right". When the urge to do this is present, one needs to take a moment, analyze the situation and ask oneself, "Is this being assertive or am I being the male aggressor again?" If the latter is the case, we are not truly adopting the stereotypical feminine role and might be singling ourselves out for closer investigation. Remember, our actions are just as important as our appearance, and in most cases our appearance places us at a disadvantage. Therefore, our actions must be carefully chosen and controlled. We may feel as feminine as any natural born woman inside, but physical attributes, male hormonal governed features, and years of indoctrination in the male way of thinking and acting, are very difficult obstacles to overcome.

I'm not saying that we must throw away all our male attributes in order to become accepted as a feminine individual. I say this for two reasons. First of all, in most cases, this type of purge probably is not possible. Secondly, as Virginia Prince has said, "We need to play the game with all our

marbles." Initially, we do have to concentrate on perfecting feminine traits, but the old masculine traits will always be part of our nature. Locking them up inside with no chance to express them will only create new frustrations. When we have reached the point where we have established ourselves, are comfortable, and are understood by an individual or group, all our traits should be allowed to surface. Now the complete person will have a chance to grow. However, if we are to succeed, we have to initially tilt the scales and concentrate on the stereotypical feminine traits. The reward is our acceptance as the feminine persona we desire to be. The alternative is discomfort, ridicule, and possibly public humiliation as a "guy in a dress".

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So far I've talked mainly of us as individuals. Now I would like to address a few issues we collectively hold in common as a group. We, as cross-gender individuals, are faced with a general populous that for the most part is ignorant of our desires, drives, and needs. Generally, they are ignorant of us, and therefore are not concerned. This changes when they are exposed to members of our community. Due to a lack of background and insight into us and our drives, etc., they are quick to label us with derogatory names such as sick, weird, even demented. When people are faced with activity that is foreign, possibly even repulsive due to their programming by society, they can even be hostile and abusive. Anyone who has had contact with society while in a cross gender role, usually in initial attempts at going public, has run into this to some degree. The stronger people are programmed by society, and the stronger they accept society's arbitrary rules, the more difficult it is to enlighten them to our special desires and needs.

this is our lot. We can face it, or we can try to ignore it. as members of this community, we owe the spokespersons of the community in general a debt. We owe our support to those in the community that have taken up the task of educating society in general. They are the ones that are fighting the ignorance in society at large, and are smoothing the way for people like ourselves. They are the ones that are taking the chances in order to educate Joe and Mary back in Nebraska that we are people, possibly a little different in our needs and desires, but none the less people, deserving the same respect they show their next door neighbors. For all they know we may be their next door neighbors. It is through the efforts of this small group of spokespersons at a national level, through the efforts of our local outreach and through our own contact with society in general that education process continues.

You may feel that a specific national broadcast or the efforts of a specific local group are not in line with your personal gender identity. This might be true, but the gender spectrum is a continuum, and for each of us, there is a level that we feel comfortable somewhere along this continuum. Gender contentment may be satisfied with an occasional outing while cross-dressed, it may be living in the opposite gender role full time, or it may be SRS. We are all individuals and we all have different levels that we consider satisfactory along this line. None is more correct than another. No position on the gender line carries more weight than any other. We need to keep this in mind. We need to respect the needs and desires of others in our community. It bothers me when one member of our community shuns or is negative toward another member because that person is content to be at another point on the gender line. The comments typically are, "I'm not like that," or, "They look ridiculous." The truth is, we are all very similar inside. Our position on the gender line may be different, but we still are members of this community.

When we ignore or are negative toward a portion of our community, we are no better than the segment of the population in society at large that is abusive to our community in general. We may for one reason or another, not wish to actively support or become visibly involved with some segment of the cross gender community, but, on the other hand, we should at least passively support that segment and the community in general.

Support can be in many ways. It can be the subscription to a newsletter or national publication, it can be the support of a local group, it can be the willingness to participate in educating the general public. We all need to be involved. We all need to recognize the fact that we do belong to this community and will benefit from the efforts of those who are trying to make our nature, our desires, and our needs known to society in general.

Thank you all for letting me speak to you this evening. Now let's all GO FOR IT!

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JoLynne White, #4

A POSITIVE PERSPECTIVE

Do you have days that feel like an uphill battle when nothing goes right? There isn't enough time to get everything done. You feel bombarded with responsibilities with no let-up in sight. When things seem to reach a peak and you are not having fun anymore, it may be time to slow down and take stock of what's going on in your life. This usually entails looking at your present situation, trying to see what, if anything, can be changed on your priority list. Sometimes it also requires a look at those things you cannot change in your life.

Accepting the things we you cannot change means looking at our inability to control others, places, and events. Sure, we can influence, cajole, manipulate, and yell at people to get them to do what we want them to do, and they may even acquiesce and do it... or they may not. The reality to remember is that in the end, we can only control ourselves. We can't control whether someone likes us or not, we can't control our family's attitudes about how we live our lives, we can't control whether or not our children grow up to be healthy in body and spirit, we can't control a loved one from hurting himself or herself in a self-destructive act. Trying to control others usually leads to a winner-loser dichotomy whereby someone ends up feeling frustrated.

We can't really know what is best for anyone but ourselves. If someone doesn't agree with your way of thinking, it doesn't make us wrong, or the other person wrong. It merely suggests we have differing ways of looking at an issue. It all boils down to our perceptions about life and the world at large. Remember the old saying about the cup being half-full or half-empty? How we answer this question reveals a great deal about how we perceive the world about us.

In my own life I used to think my cup was half-empty most of the time. It didn't matter how much I accomplished, how much money I made, how new my furniture was, or where I lived. It was never enough. I compared myself to others instead of listening to my own inner truth. Consequently, I always found someone who was prettier, smarter, had more money, dressed better, etc., and the list went on. When I began to see it wasn't the reality of a situation that was important, but rather my perceptions about it, my life began to slowly change for the better.

If you are in a hurry to get to an appointment and the traffic light in front of you turns read, you can do one of two things. You can get angry and upset because you are

(JoLynne White)

running late and things aren't going the way you want them. This choice generally leads to a tenseness in the body. A second possibility involves accepting the fact you can't control the red light. It's going to be red for less than a minute. You could choose to take that time to slow down and take a few deep breaths and relax. Did you know it's difficult to remain tensed when you're breathing in slowly and deeply? Try it at the next red light. We'd all be healthier and less stressed if we breathed in slow, deep breaths more often.

Negative thinking happens when we set up some imaginary standard about how we think something should be and then falling short of it, thus making ourselves or someone else wrong. For example, I believed at one time that a successful person had to make a certain amount of money per year. If I didn't make that much, I wasn't successful. Today, I don't believe success comes from the amount of money one earns. It comes from being true to yourself and following a course of action that brings you inner peace and self-acceptance.

We respond negatively when someone disagrees with our way of thinking and we choose to feel judged by them. It comes from our making something wrong in our minds. For example, every time you feel guilty because you dress in women's clothing, or because of your desire to do so, you're making yourself wrong. This becomes problematic, for every thought in the mind has a corresponding feeling in the

body. Next time you're feeling guilty or angry, check out your body and see how it feels. Every time you choose a negative thought, it creates a discomforting feeling in the body, which in turn, can lead to more negativity. What a vicious circle we can create with our thoughts alone! Who needs anyone else?

Norman Vincent Peale's and Robert Schuller's popularity stems from people wanting to learn about living life from a positive perspective, rather than a negative one. Each of us will feel more energized if we celebrate being alive rather than choosing to make ourselves wrong. We'll also be healthier.

I'm striving for greater self-acceptance, which comes from being aware of something that I've made wrong in my mind and then deciding not to make it wrong anymore. For instance, when I allow myself to eat a candy bar, even though I have judged it to be wrong in my mind, I'm not making myself wrong for eating it. Self-acceptance evolves when you stop thinking that crossdressing isn't right or sane, and you cease to make it wrong. That happens only through your acceptance of it. What is, is! Wanting to wear certain fabrics next to your skin and look a certain way is not a matter of right or wrong, it just is. Accepting this as a part of you, rather than fighting it will bring healing and self-acceptance into your life.

Remind yourself that those things which you hate and/or fear the most will continue to come back and haunt you until you learn to accept them and love them. What is it you have trouble accepting about yourself? Can you consider the possibility of accepting it in your life? If, for some reason, you can't, will you try to accept the fact that you can't? Until we begin to accept who we are and where we are for today, we will find it extremely difficult to move out of our present feelings about ourselves.

I spent many years not accepting myself because I didn't measure up to that imaginary standard I had in my head about "how I should be." This approach did not bring me happiness or peace of mind, so I committed myself to looking at my world differently. Whenever I hear the voices in my head admonishing or criticizing me, I thank them for sharing and then tell them I don't agree with their perceptions. I am, in fact, okay. I'm doing the very best I know how to do, and it's all right! I may not be where I'd like to be in terms of accomplishments, money, and feelings of self-worth, and I accept that as being all right for today. Instead of believing those voices which want to make me wrong, I choose to listen to the voices of acceptance and non-judgment. The more I do, the more positive do I perceive the world about me. Today, my cup appears to be half-full and it comes merely from my choosing to see things from a positive perspective.

Feeling Female is a State of Mind

It has nothing to do with gender. we all have **masculine** *and* **feminine** *energies within us. When we give free rein to both of these energies they can operate in balance and harmony--and we can be at peace.*

I can help you **refine your womanly image** *and empower you to experience and express the femlnine side of your personality. Together we will attend to your* **color coordination** *and your* **makeup,** *and your* **posture, gesture, movement,** *and voice. I also offer* **shopping services.**

If you wish, I can also help you to create a healthier balance between your masculine nd feminine energies. I offer phone consultations as well as personal appointments.

Please call me to arrange an intial interview.

Jo Lynne White

New York, New York

212-867-8746

TAPESTRY MAILBAG

Dear Editor,

I am 41 years old and have been dealing with an inner struggle as long as I can remember. Although I realize I am not alone, I feel that I have no place to turn to. For the past two years my confusion has increased to the point that I have difficulty concentrating on day to day life.

I have periodically dressed in women's clothing since I was a child. At first, there was the initial sexual gratification followed by guilt. I knew it was not the way things should be but I was compelled to do it again and again. As the years passed , I learned to accept that side of me and seemed to compensate for it by over-achieving. I did all the "macho" things I could to keep up the facade. There were even periods of a number of months where I had to set it aside because it was impossible or totally inconvenient to give in to my desires. I had to let my fantasies and dreams suffice.

About sixteen years ago, while I was in the service, I met someone who I felt could end the turmoil. She was all woman, very sensual and feminine. We were married and the first year was fine. Then a long separation overseas followed by a return to civilian life and jobs that required travel began to take its toll. Our sex life began to suffer and try as I might, I couldn't satisfy her due to my poor sexual performance. My traveling offered me an outlet and I bought a few articles of clothing which seemed to help me relax and relieve the tension when I was alone. The number of articles grew slowly and were sometimes discarded only to start the process again.

I had long since come to the conclusion that I was a transvestite but had convinced myself that I was hurting no one and as long as I guarded my secret I could somehow keep my marriage together and even improve my relationship with my wife. A little over two years ago we moved and I started my own business which did quite well at first and really blossomed in the past year. My traveling continued and with more time to call my own, my wardrobe increased drastically. I had some clothes made at a local dress shop and learned the proper techniques for applying my makeup. In short, I became quite pre-sentable. With some apprehension, I soon ventured out and found out that the gay clubs offered me a place to go. I found that I was much more comfortable with my feminine self and totally at ease. The attention I got took a little getting used to but I maintained my composure. Although I had many advances, which I suppose I should have expected, I was not about to do anything foolish, especially in today's time.

Last march, my worst fears were realized. My wife discovered my clothing. The poor thing was absolutely beside herself. I was terrified but at the same time strangely relieved. Now at last the secret was out. I pleaded with her not to tell everyone. I was supposed to destroy my clothes but couldn't get myself to go through with it. I left them with the lady at the dress shop. During many tear-filled days of discussions my wife and I talked about transvestism. In trying to resolve my motivation, I realized that not since my childhood were my desires driven by sexual gratification. There was something deeper. The ease in which my femininity manifested itself and the fact that the turmoil was gone when I was a woman in all aspects except my body, brought about discussions of transsexualism. I had to accept this as a real possibility. We talked about alternatives and where our lives might go from here. She stayed with me through all this, which is a testimony to her love for me. In turn, my love for her seemed to grow deeper. We agreed that I would quit "dressing up" as she put it and try to pull our lives together again.

The first few weeks were horrible. She made some snide remarks in the presence of friends which thankfully were not caught, but hurt me deeply. I endured it because I knew how deeply I had hurt and disappointed her. Things did gradually improve as did our sex life. In fact it seemed to me that it was better for her than before. I managed to enjoy it too but I found myself fantasizing roles.

A couple of months ago, an experience on an overseas trip made me think how short life is and I wondered if I could continue keeping things bottled up. On a couple of recent trips I picked up my clothes and confined myself to the hotel room. My confusion grew once again. The success I am enjoying in business, the material things that have come from that, and the happiness my wife deserves all weighed heavily on my mind. It didn't take long for her to realize that something was up and she soon discovered the few articles I had stashed in my car for an upcoming trip.

The past few days we have relived the pain from last March. I once again told her I would quit but she sensed my hesitance. She can't understand why I am vacillating so. I told her that I need some help with this and can't do it myself. She is against any professional counseling. She says that I'll just pick through different opinions until I find one that justifies what I really want, which she fears is a sex change.

She says if we separate and I try living completely as a woman, she is certain I would eventually have to decide to have sex with a man. She says that only then could I be sure. I told her that sex is not the issue, gender is. At any rate, she would never take me back, no matter what my decision was.

This is not an easy decision for me (or anyone else, I imagine). I am guilt-ridden with the possibility that I would be

leaving her during the precise time when she should be able to enjoy a secure lifestyle with a loving husband, nice home, etc. What will my life be like? Will I be lonesome? Will I miss her? She can still find another, but she must love me to still be here. I would still financially provide for her but my business could not survive my sex change. Would anyone have me? Could I love another? She will not compromise. She wants all of me or nothing. I guess that is not really not unreasonable on her part.

At this point, face to face counseling is out of the question. I have called the offices of some professionals referred to me by some "hot lines" but they won't even return my calls. Right now, correspondence is the only way. Please don't leave me to deal with this by myself any longer!

- Carla V. (FL-M1374)

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Dear Editor,

I list myself as a SWM heterosexual, and I think I may have a problem with definitions. Gender and sex may also be confusing to me.

Gender and sex are closely related, I think. Gender has to do with one's biological make-up. That is, male, female, bi and neuter. Male has a normal setup of a functional penis and testicles, non-functional breasts. Female has a normal setup of a functional penis, vagina, breasts, etc. Neuter has the necessary equipment of either sex, but they are non-functional. Gender and sex has nothing to do with how one dresses or one's mental feelings.

Heterosexual means having a sex life is with one of the opposite gender or sex. Homosexual means having a sex life with one of the same gender or sex. Again, how one dresses or one's mental feelings has nothing to do with this. What bothers me are letters I receive wither hinting or coming right out with us performing sexual acts while either or both of us are dressed en femme. To my way of thinking, this is a homosexual act. I would love to fine someone to dress en femme with but without the sexual encounter. If both of us are either dressed en femme or as males and one is a male and the other is female, then any sexual encounter would be heterosexual. The difficulty starts when they indicate they are heterosexual males and then come out with what could amount to a sexual proposition.

When cross-dressed, I try to feel, look and behave as a female, but I have no desire to have sex with anyone of the same gender.

Guess I am either old-fashioned, have out-dated morals, or just do not understand.

- Cynthia S. (FL-1848)

Dear Cynthia: I'm not going to get too heavily into the definition thing. (I wrote a directory of terms for that purpose.) However, I do want to respond to a few things.

You said, "Gender had to do with one's biological makeup." Yes and no... yes if you are talking in medical terms (the way Dr. Money means it), and no if you are talking about expression, relationships, and transition, which is the way we use it. It is simply more useful for us to separate sex (biology) and gender (psychology/sociology). That means, for all practical purposes being female and being a woman are fundamentally different. You don't have to be a female to be a woman, but if you were born male you can never be female.

You then got into a heterosexual/homosexual thing. Let's face it, many people who are interested in CD & TS are interested because it's a sexual turn-on. (Whether or not a person is sexually attracted to males, females, both, or other, is not important.) (There aren't many people who can explain what triggers the human sexual response, and I don't recommend you try.) "Sex" is the first grade, the bottom of the pyramid. No matter what level we are or how high up the pyramid, we will always have the first graders. My recommendation to you is not to get hung-up on sexual definitions or sexually oriented people.

Try this! A heterosexual or homosexual person is someone sexually attracted to a member of the opposite or same sex. A heterosexual or homosexual act describes the act, not a person. (It just means someone is capable of a sexual response, which is entirely human... as is the concept "morality".) Males are generally trained to be "attracted to" an external object, and females are generally trained to "feel attractive" or "be the object of desire". Both sensations are sexual turn-on's, and both sexes are capable of having both sensations. Now suppose you have a male who enjoys cross-dressing. he's turned-on by the sensation of feeling attractive. He sees himself in the mirror and is turned-on by an external object which is the feminine image he sees. The fact that the image is his own just adds to the turn-on. Now he is attracted to the image of himself while he is feeling attractive (both the object and the subject) - a sexually explosive sensation. Another man comes along and compliments his "femme-self" (not his "homme-self"). He has sex with the man, and he enjoys it enough to want to do it again. At no time was he ever sexually attracted to the man, but he did engage in a homosexual act which was rewarding. Now, is he a homosexual person?

My recommendation to you is don't get bogged down in sexual classifications, or get angry because someone claiming to be heterosexual would like to have sex with you while dressed. It can drive you crazy and give you real problems (guilt, fear, hatred, homophobia, etc.). If you enjoy sex, or if you don't... so what? If someone else enjoys sex and you don't... so what? Saying "NO" is easy. — ED

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Dear Editor,

The world I know can be a cruel place. I see injustices every day and every where. Therefore, it is very important that as a group cross-dressers we need to keep our image as good as possible. I realize that magazines such as 'Tapestry' have to serve more than one section of the alternative lifestyle community. It is important that we realize how and what we say and how we say it affects newcomers and their spouses.

Consider the following example: A husband tells his wife of 2 or 3 years about his being a cross-dresser. He then

shows her a magazine such as 'Tapestry'. She turns to the personal listings section and sees a picture or two that is not flattering and asks, "You want to go around looking like this?!!"

Self expression is an important part of cross-dressing. But, when we are trying to raise public awareness and hope for public tolerance, it is very important to put the best face forward. Pictures showing scandalous poses and showing more undies than necessary gives people the wrong message. OK, I know this magazine serves more than one group, but, we all have to work together to uplift our image.

This is a public appeal to everyone who subscribes, contributes, advertises, or has a personal listing in any magazine to keep it respectable. Anything less is a disservice to the whole group.

– Leslie G. (MS-2138)

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*Dear **Leslie**: Deciding what constitutes a "good public image" and what is acceptable, and what is not, is a very difficult job. Our job is to help people achieve peace of mind and to live happier lives. It is also to help people gain a greater respect for other people's differences, and more tolerance from society, and especially among ourselves. We simply cannot do that if the 'Tapestry' has to look like the 'Ladies Home Journal', and every cross-dresser must look like Betty Crocker. If your wife chose an "unflattering" picture and asks if you want to look like that, you should have chosen a picture more to your liking and say, "No, I want to look like that."*

Please understand that I sincerely appreciate your comments. Comments such as yours help me do my best to keep the Tapestry in balance, and of value to all. Thank you. – ED

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(Lament of a New Leader)

Dear Editor,

The cross-dresser's "paraculture" (as Betty Ann Lind calls it) is new to me. I find myself with a great deal of empathy for the despondency and despair, and a strong desire to intervene with the persistently self-destructive behavior almost craftily designed to insure more unhappiness. At the same time, I find myself increasingly repulsed by the unmitigated narcissism; the rudeness of missed appointments and gross lateness; the lack of respect for the personal space and financial and property boundaries of "the leaders"; the near "pre-school" maturity level of the newly coming out transvestite who feels I should answer my phone and listen to his sad tale of woe at any hour; who feels he has a right to walk into my closet and fondle and admire my dresses; who feels no inhibition about groping in my bathroom cabinet and asking to use my make-up, who lives a life of such equivocation that commitments mean nothing in pursuit of solipsistic compulsions. No wonder Merissa collapsed in fatigue and advertises for leaders.

Our task is to build a leadership infrastructure which does not hang for dear life on a Merissa, a Betty Ann, a Virginia, or a JoAnn Roberts.

A mistake I keep on making is to falsely assume that everyone really wants to be the best that they can be, and reach as far as they can reach. All the messiahs make the same mistake: "If I can just get them to see that it is only a matter of thinking, planning, scouting, and the concentration of force at the critical points that changes limits into opportunities, then they would take responsibility for their own happiness." But it would seem that when the Buddha is successful at this is when the Buddha gets killed on the road. When the Buddha is unsuccessful at this, a band of dependent followers is created.

Perhaps, and this I wonder, it is that the successful Buddha (and soon to be suicidally burned out or dead Buddha) forces them to look at their denial and confront their own delusions of helplessness. Looking in, they face the Hobbesian choice of confronting and taking risks with their own fear or acknowledging their own cowardice fueled by internalized self-hate. Killing the Buddha not only is a successful risk avoidance strategy, but it resolves dissonance by confirming what was already believed: that there really is nothing which can be done.

- Melissa D. (VA)

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Dear Editor,

Thank you for the 'Tapestry', and 'Wives and Significant Others'. I feel like a kid in a candy store. I feel as if there is an entire community of friends I haven't met yet. It's such a wonderful sensation to actually feel good about being a TV/CD after resisting it all these years. Telling my wife last week was the best thing I ever did. Even though she was shocked, she is willing to study the subject and attempt to understand this part of "her perfect husband". Thank you for being there to help people like me.

- Amy S. (WA)

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(Letter from Death Row)

Dear Editor,

My name is Janet Kolmetz. I'm a 30 year old pre-op male to female transsexual. I only wish that I could have known about your organization long ago. My life has been all but destroyed as a result of the overwhelming emotional problems engendered from being an unsupported TS.

My family disowned me when I was 22 solely due to my decision to live as a woman. I went through some very agonizing psychological and emotional problems, and the absence of support from my family only made things more painful. I soon fell prey to the streets and was self-medicating myself with alcohol and other drugs.

Three times since I was 22 I started hormone therapy and I was working towards re-assignment surgery. Each time I was completely without any emotional or financial support... I was on my own. I was unable to keep up with all the problems one faces in attempting the transition. You see, I was a very emotionally dependant person and without having someone to hold my hand and help me through it I would fall into depression and was often exploited by uncaring men. My drinking would get worse and soon I would hit bottom again. (There is a lot more to it than what I am writing, but I think you can fill in the gaps with the many common parallels among unsupported TS's.)

The cycle continued for five painful years until I was 27. At that time the cumulative effect of the years of sadness,

loneliness, frustration and pain manifested itself. I got myself into an absolutely terrible situation and as an end result I now live on death row in San Quentin Prison.

Please withhold judgment of me because of where I am. I can assure you that I am not a monster or a terrible person. I've never been in trouble in my life and I'm actually pretty "square". I am a very warm, sensitive, loving and sincere lady. But the fact remains that I am here and nothing that I can do now can change that.

The staff here has refused my hormone therapy since I arrived three months ago, but I got word from one of the psychiatrists today that my request to continue on the hormones has finally been approved. What a relief!

Here in California the program facility for all TV/TS inmates is at Cal. Med. Facility at Vacaville. Because of my death sentence I can't be housed there with the other girls. The law requires that all condemned inmates be kept here on death row at San Quentin. Consequently I am the only girl on death row, or for that matter, in all of San Quentin.

I have no one to talk to who can understand or relate to me. To the men here I'm just a pretty novelty and an object to throw cat calls and wolf whistles at. They don't understand me and can't see past my tits to my heart, if you can relate.

So, to sum it all up, my life has really gone wrong and now once again I'm all alone, but much much worse. I'm very scared and very lonely. Whatever you can do to help provide the much needed link with my sister out there will be appreciated beyond words. If there is anyone out there who would like to be my "pen-pal", please write me.

In closing, I want to applaud you and your organization for what you are doing. The answer is not to stay alone or in a bottle or on drugs. The answer if for all TS brothers and sisters to come together and find acceptance, love, and support among ourselves. Making the transition is very difficult, so please take pride and solace in the fact that what you are doing at IFGE may prevent the possible destruction of other lives that would have otherwise gone unsupported.

Janet Kolmetz
Box E-20001, 1-E-66
Tamal, CA 94974

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(Information Needed for Book)

Dear Editor,

In the interest of education and just pure enjoyment, I feel it is high time a book is published for public consumption on the wonderful world of crossdressing. So I have begun what I know will be a lengthy project, writing just that book.

In essence, the book will cover the role of crossdressing in history; a psychological profile as defined by "professionals"; a realistic profile as defined by actual crossdressers; the effect of crossdressing on significant others; the media's role in giving crossdressing bad press; political and legal issues surrounding crossdressing; and a reference listing of self-help publications and organizations for all of the crossdressers who will ultimately utilize this book.

Due to my personal involvement in the crossdressing community, and the fact that I am a freelance writer, I want very much to present this positive gift of informative (and hopefully supportive) material to anyone who even remotely has an interest in this marvelous lifestyle.

Now that I have completed this pitch on my project, I will come to the point of my letter. Due to the extensive nature of this subject, I will require as much assistance and input as possible in order to gather accurate facts.

What I am looking for is any CD, TV, or TS who would consider being interviewed concerning their participation in crossdressing. This material would in turn be included in the book. The interviews can be by mail, phone or in person (and their privacy will be completely protected). Anyone who feels this is as important a project as I do, will readily agree that the more people who get involved, the more substantial the results will be.

Anyone who would like to embark on this adventure with me, please drop me a line at the address listed below as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for helping me launch this project.

Cindy Thomas
706 N.W. 189th Lane
Seattle, WA 98177

(Cindy is the partner of Paula S. An article concerning the relationship of Paula and Cindy written by Paula appears elsewhere in this magazine.)

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Dear Editor,

As the wife of a cross-dresser who has recently joined a support group and has subscribed to the 'Tapestry', I feel it is my responsibility to let you know when your magazine publishes something contrary to its purposes.

From reading issues #53 and #54, I can easily see that one of your purposes is to encourage open communication with spouses or companions and to foster supportive relationships. I was somewhat disturbed by issue #53 because many of the poses and modes of dress depicted in your "Personal Listings" section may be offensive to many genetic females trying to earn a little respect in what is still, despite all our efforts, a man's world. These poses are not likely to encourage support from some of the more uncertain wives and girlfriends who are just learning about cross-dressing. Please! We have enough trouble with the "Madonna-Whore Complex" in American society without the help of these pictures.

I have firmly decided, and did from the first time I knew my husband wore women's clothing, to support him. However, I could NEVER support the author of the article 'Finding a Wonderful, Supportive Wife', which appeared in #54. Not only does the author tell you precisely how he went about shopping for a supportive wife like a piece of hard-to-find merchandise, but he explains how he used sex as a screening tool. The whole article reeks of selfishness and, beyond describing her supportiveness, never says a nice word about her. Although he counsels others that acceptance of cross-dressing will not necessarily create a good, lasting relationship, it is plainly clear that he was looking for just that acceptance above all else. This article discourages any inclination toward supporting cross-dressers.

Most of what you print may be helping cross-dressers, but another slip-up like this will, in my opinion, help you lose the support you have worked so hard to obtain. Please listen to me; my husband and I need all the assistance we can get and we would hate to lose 'Tapestry' as an ally in our quest for understanding.

K.J.M. (MS)

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Dear IFGE,

Thank you for the work you are doing! I'm getting involved with a local group, and I am becoming even more aware of the positive impact you are having on people's lives. I am grateful for the friends I have made and what they have meant to me. I could have had NO better introduction into the community than through the IFGE functions I have attended. Please pace yourselves so that you can continue this important work for many successful years.

Elizabeth L. (AL)

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Dear Editor,

I would like to issue an appeal.

Every one of us at one time or another has suffered through some situation related to our lifestyle, caused in large by the ignorance of either ourselves or that of others. Many of us in our own ways, through sources available to us, have begun to beat back the walls of ignorance. IFGE has taken a leading role in providing direction, unity, and creating an environment for nurturing the synergism we so badly need.

In recent years computerized bulletin board services (BBS's) have provided our community with new opportunities for outreach, for education, and for sharing. This is a dramatically successful and growing part of our community's communication link. But for numerous reasons all the current systems, even my own, have shortcomings. Most are small volunteer systems with limited access. Others have nearly unlimited access but charge large fees or have limited on-line storage capabilities.

I think the time has come for our community to unite its resources to provide an informational focus for clubs, researchers, educators, and individuals. The time has come for a focus consisting of an international computerized gender data base and bulletin board or networking system. Such a system would need to be able to be accessed locally from nearly everywhere someone has an interest in our community, i.e. local access points or 800 numbers. Such a system would require sophisticated computer technology and large storage capacity. (Genderline alone has over 500 megabytes of library and this doesn't scratch the surface.) Such a system needs to be professionally managed to maintain the latest in accurate up-to-date information. Finally such a system needs funding, and would have to be self-supporting.

For such a system to become reality, we need the focus of IFGE, we need the cooperation and active participation of many people, of sisters working together to provide a greater whole - we need a synergy.

While others dream about a system let me ask IFGE to help me start the ball rolling. I ask that anyone interested in helping establish such a system contact me at my address. Let's pool ideas, abilities, and resources. Let's prepare a prospectus, do a feasibility study, and marketing plan.

So much good is being done, but so much more could be done. Let's do it!

Jennifer Wells
P.O. Box 1417
Troy, NY 12181
(518) 432-7092

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Dear Editor,

I became aware of your organization through a copy of 'Penthouse Forum' that I bought hoping to find a source of information.

I am a 46 year old man who enjoys (among other things) cross-dressing. I feel reasonably well adjusted, perhaps as a result of a lifetime of effort and despite my recent separation from my wife. My condition, until recently, had laid dormant, or perhaps suppressed, for approximately 12 years. The feelings have been with me continuously. At some times they have been more prominent in my mental landscape and at other times less - but always there. For years I was able to find expression for these feelings in ways less obvious than cross-dressing.

Approximately nine months ago everything changed. It seems to me now that an accumulation of stress resulted in what I've described as "all my springs popping loose". My desire to cross-dress increased dramatically and it seemed like a safe and peaceful harbor in an otherwise stormy sea. My wife was, at the time, pre-occupied with her work along with some other issues and seemed not available for support. As it turned out, my renewed interest in cross-dressing was not a "safe harbor" in terms of our marriage. Though I had told her of my condition before we married, her reaction to my stating these feelings was swift and decisive - this was unacceptable and she would do whatever was required to preserve her own emotional well being. I think, in retrospect, that the cross-dressing may in part have been symptomatic of deeper problems in our relationship. Though we have now separated, my interest in cross-dressing continues even though many of my original stresses have been resolved.

When my "springs popped" I went into counseling which I continued for about five months. From the outset I encouraged my wife to attend with me. She reluctantly sat in on about three sessions but was highly uncomfortable and would say almost nothing. I've more recently suggested we go together to another counselor - "ours" not "mine", but she was not interested. She was distraught at the breakup of our marriage and seemed to prefer that we remain together if only to live separate lives under the same roof. This felt to me like being locked into something very uncomfortable and very unhealthy - having backed each other into our respective corners with no visible way out. I left about three months ago.

I continue my search for whether a healthier respect for myself requires more acknowledgement of my condition, more skill at managing stress, or a little bit of a lot of things pulled together. I am as comfortable with this search as I can be, given that I didn't exactly ask for this assignment in life. But, we all have our assignments and who is to say who carries the greater burden? It does seem to me that many of the qualities I respect in myself - that have served me well - can be traced back to my "condition".

That's OK in my book, and a source of encouragement.

P.E. (VA-2217)

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Dear IFGE,

I would like to tell you how much the 'Tapestry' has meant to me personally. This magazine (or journal, or whatever I should call it) has been a major force in my life. It has helped me to take pride in who and what I am, and has given focus to my quest for happiness in my role as a gender person. I cannot tell you how many times I've thrilled to an article or a poem or a picture you've printed. I read and re-read each new issue and eagerly await the next. I am indeed fortunate to have found such a wealth of information and affirmation. I suppose that is what I get most of all from your publication - a sense of affirmation and love for people, regardless of gender status. Thank you for that.

I have gone back to school to get my degree in counseling and my goal is to counsel crossdressers and their families so that they can learn to cope with their situations and come to embrace gender issues as a part of life. The 'Tapestry' is a major reason for my choice to do this.

Again, may God richly bless you for your work and your attitudes toward people who need you so much.

- Vanessa S. (MN-1168)

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Dear Editor,

To begin with, let me tell you where I am at now. After a long existence, including two marriages, with all the responsibilities therein, I now am living alone in the country. I am only just discovering the community of people somewhat like myself through the pages of this magazine. I found the articles thoughtful and provoking, and I want to thank the people who took the trouble to share them with me. As a result, I am making every effort to tear down the walls of my closet and overcome my fears.

My conscious knowledge of what I came to consider my "affliction" came when I was very young. My cousin and her friends dressed me up as a girl. It was so exciting for me that after they wearied of the game and left, I kept the clothes and the make-up on. throughout my teen years I stimulated myself as often as I could with self-devised techniques. I also had to endure a love-hate relationship with myself, fighting with myself. The result was I lost confidence in myself. This lack of confidence increased as I became older. I had no real understanding of what was happening to me.

My first marriage contributed to my insecurity. We were not compatible sexually so I crept into my other existence as often as I could, dressing very flamboyantly in the manner of theatrical personalities. My wife, who had been hospitalized for severe emotional problems, discovered my secret, and demanded that I leave home or risk exposure. Then, as a result of severe withdrawal symptoms from drug abuse, she died. I suffered intense guilt over this for quite some time, until through therapy, I overcame it.

After a while, I married again. She was a wonderful woman, and we had a happy relationship. I discovered I could be a good husband in every way, but she too discovered my secret. However, by that time I had developed feeling and regard for myself and an understanding of where I was at. We talked about it a lot. Although she could not really accept what she called my "proclivity", we continued our relationship as before. Although I kept that part of me away from her completely, I made it clear to her that I had arrived at the point that she would have to accept me as I was. I was no longer willing to apologize for what I was. She was accepting until the day of her sad death in 1987.

I made myself known to the various members of my family. Some continued to regard me with love and affection, others discontinued our relationship completely.

As for myself, a heavy burden has been lifted from me. Now, I am looking forward to widening my relationships through the pages of this magazine.

- Helene H. (VT-2021)

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Dear IFGE,

We recently received our latest shipment of Tapestry. I wish more of the magazines we carry would take a lesson from you. It always arrives packed neatly and in excellent shape. The covers are very professional and always in good taste. In our newsstand we always display Tapestry where it is easily seen and are pleased with the attitude it gets. (Occasionally it gets a few stares and funny looks but most often the reaction is one of interest and friendly curiosity.) Thank you for filling a definite need with a professional and well done magazine.

- Downtown Books & News
Asheville, NC

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Dear Editor,

I really don't know what to say or how to say it. I'm hoping against hope you can offer some help, guidance, or at least lead me in the right direction. I'm a man who desperately wants to be a woman. This desire is literally ripping my life apart.

My story parallels others I've read. I knew something was wrong when I was really young. I started wearing my sister's clothes when I was around six years old and have been cross-dressing since. I joined the military at 18 hoping to get rid of "it", but to no avail. If anything, it got stronger. At 22, I married, but I ended up dressing behind her back. I'm 26 now, and my wife has found out about my other life. I've loved her since I met her, but she wants nothing to do with a man of my desires. I do feel a responsibility to her though, as I lied to her. I'm going to stay with her for a couple of years until she finishes school, and then we'll part ways. In the meantime, I'm free to dress up, but there's nothing left between us. This marriage, coupled with my military commitment and a body I hate has made me a pretty unhappy camper.

- D.R. (SC)

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(New Zealand)

Dear Editor,

Tapestry readers will recall my letter to IFGE printed in #54. I made some very strong recommendations, and strong criticism too. I hope the recommendations will greatly outweigh the

criticism and be taken to heart by all support groups throughout the American continent.

At the time of writing I knew little about what the IFGE was and had certainly not heard of the Tapestry. When I received #53 and #54 I simply couldn't believe my eyes. I am still reading the material after two months, and allowing others to see the magazines too. More importantly, I loaned them to New Zealand's Human Rights Commission, and the Commissioners were very impressed with the quality, the material and information, and above all the wonderful photos of the girls. I have since described the Tapestry in my own magazine 'Transcare' as being the Vogue Magazine of the Trans World. I know of no other way to compliment it enough.

In New Zealand we are not covered by the Human Rights Commission Act and it's quite lawful to discriminate upon any grounds for any reason. We are hoping our present government will endeavor to amend the legislation this year. Recently our new Minister for Justice promoted a Bill before Parliament to amend the Births and Death Act to allow sex change people to change their birth certificates. While an enlightened and humane gesture, it will discriminate against many in NZ who may have lived in the opposite gender role for 20-30 odd years successfully without access to, or indeed knowing about reassignment possibilities. Such is the case for many an indigenous native Maori trans-person, and some Europeans. We lack the advantage of gender clinics and therapists such as you have in America.

I am indeed impressed with the work being done throughout North America, and in other countries too. It serves to show me that although I have my problems getting help and support, my own efforts have not been in vain, and that after some three years of pushing and coping with a debilitating illness as well as work related discrimination that has been well worth the sacrifice, and we are now slowly seeing our efforts bearing small fruit.

I look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with you all, and hopefully one day may get to meet some of you.

Leona Neil
P.O. Box 2983
Wellington, New Zealand

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Dear Editor,

I have just been exposed to my first issue of 'Tapestry' magazine and have found it to be the most informative source on cross-dressing I have read so far. As the wife of a CD though, I find the magazine to be seriously lacking in the spouse's feelings on this behavior. I have yet to read in any newsletters or brochures how the spouse deals with this. I, for one, have been very frustrated. I have learned to accept my husband's behavior but I still have these very negative feelings about it and would like to hear how the other wives deal with it. The CD's have their meetings, tc., and have stories to exchange but I feel very much in the 'closet' so to speak because this is not something I can talk to my friends, co-workers, or family about. So where do I go? I would like to see a spouse's column in your magazine so that the CD's could read what kind of a mental effect their behavior has on us. I think it would be real eye opener and maybe they'd realize it's not always greener on the other side of the fence. I'm sure there are MANY, MANY wives out there that need to hear that their feelings of anger, hurt, denial, and confusion are not unusual. I'm tired of hearing how everyone is supposed to lean over backwards to accept the CD's affliction. How about giving us some equal time? It's our problem too!

- J.M. (CO)

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(Fantasia Fair)

Dear Editor,

Although I had been told to expect some sort of letdown after leaving Provincetown, I was surprised to find myself crying before I had cleared the limits of the town. My surprise was more due to the ease with which I cried as it has been many years since my decision not to cry (a response to warnings while in the fourth grade that it was not manly to do so). Despite the knowledge that such a proscription made no sense, there remained the barrier that prevented me from expressing any feelings that would bring tears. While there was a measure of loss associated with leaving the people that I had just spent the past six days getting to know, my emotions were more connected with the realization that, for the first time in my life, I had truly felt understood and accepted -- I had finally found a community of people in which I could belong.

It is hard to know if my background is all that different from anyone who was there around me. My difficulty in accepting my crossdressing was perhaps more profound than most and resulted in fifteen years of different kinds of therapies including four years of psychoanalysis to try to disavow my desires. There was even a three and a half year period in which I stubbornly controlled my desires to wear women's clothes only to resume my dressing a couple of months before the fifteenth Fantasia Fair. I had never attended any local group meetings; I knew nothing of the existence of "Tapestry",; and in fact, had never met anyone who I knew shared my desires to spend time as a woman. My decision to attend the Fair was probably the most spontaneous thing that I have ever done as I fortuitously learned of its existence one week before it was to take place.

Upon arrival in Provincetown, I felt unsure of my decision to attend and a bit intimidated by those around me who seemed much more sure of themselves and more skilled in their presentation. However, I had come in order to spend time as a woman so I changed and did what I could with my makeup. It was exhilarating to be able to walk the streets without trepidation. That evening, I felt welcomed by those around me.

The exuberance that I experienced on the first day of my coming out was short lived, however; for the next couple of days I was plagued with questions and doubts. I asked myself what I was doing there. I thought of the difficulties that crossdressing had caused me throughout my life and felt overwhelmed by guilt and shame. In looking around, it seemed to me that everyone else was having a wonderful time and seemed to be perfectly comfortable. I had recreated for myself, in Provincetown, amongst what should have been a ready support the same isolation that I had felt for most of my life. Finally, I mentioned my feelings to someone who was attending the Fair for her second time and she indicated that she had similar feelings during her first Fair. My reluctance to express my feelings for fear of being rejected or being held responsible for adversely affecting someone else's experience had been unfounded -- a

holdover from my experiences growing up. With further contacts and being more open, I experienced a love and an acceptance that I could never have imagined. Everywhere I looked or turned there was support and encouragement. For the first time, I felt a bond of friendship that enabled me to fully express myself with others.

There is still much for me to learn. Merissa pointed out to me that I am just beginning despite the fact that I have been dressing for many years and my fascination with women's clothing goes back to my sixth or seventh year. As far as a sense of inner peace and acceptance, this is still an area where I need to do a great deal of work, but I did accomplish more in those few days of my coming out than I had managed in the years of therapy. I feel such a debt to all of the women who I met while at Fantasia Fair. My list of role models is now just too numerous to mention. I find myself wishing that there were some way to return what was given to me by the experience and hope that these thoughts can somehow be of use to someone else who is struggling alone with these feelings unaware of the support that is available to them.

- Nicole S. (CT)

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(Fantasia Fair)

Dear Editor,

This past summer when my first issue of 'Tapestry' arrived, so too did a flier advertising the 15th annual Fantasia Fair, to be held in Provincetown. In that flyer I found a place where I could step from my closet into the daylight and discover my female side. I have crossdressed since the age of five, but the fear of being discovered far overshadowed the joy of dressing female. At FanFair surely I could be a female without fear.

I filled out the application and took out the checkbook, but qualms and trepidations engulfed me. After all those years of hiding, I was still reluctant to come out. Luckily I decided to call a TV group to get a helping hand, and out of the Tapestry I picked TGIC in Albany, NY. The call to TGIC put me in touch with Jennifer. She was extremely personable, and I readily agreed to schedule an interview. When my questions turned to the subject of the Fair, she put Winnie on the phone. Winnie's enthusiasm was so infectious that I signed the check and sent the ap-plication as soon as we had hung up. After all, she had been to the Fair a mere 14 times. The help and support culmin-ated in a "coming out" party the week-end prior to FanFair. With that under my belt I was then eager to drive to P-Town dressed as the woman I had always wanted to be.

I had been to P-Town before, but as a tourist, and as a male. Now I was a participant and a female. My one change of male clothes stayed in the back of the car the entire time, and then some.

While I still had fears of being read, they were not as great as they had been just the week before. By the time I left Cape Cod the fears were of no consequence at all. At P-Town it was said that even a real woman doesn't pass, so I wasn't surprised when I got stares from the elderly and giggles from the youngsters. I was whistled at, frowned at, ogled at, and more often, smiled at. It became obvious that a smile would beget a smile... besides, I was much too happy to be upset over anything. When the tow truck driver called me a she-male, I took it as half a compliment, and I forgave him for the other half.

From the moment of registration, through every seminar, class, event, occasion, and happening, I met the most lovely, pleasant, and accommodating people. In the warmth of the Chicago House where I stayed, in the restaurants, bars, clubs, churches, stores, and quaint little shops most folks made me feel both welcome and feminine. I mean, here I was just a short time after shaving a decade old beard, wearing dresses and makeup... in the daylight and moonlight, in sun and in rain, from one end of town to the other, walking past real live people, smiling, laughing, glowing, and not caring that my feet hurt.

It had always been a dream of mine to don women's clothes for an entire day. Now I was dressing at daybreak, changing outfits several times by dusk, and ending the evening in a night gown. I was doing that <u>every</u> day. My clothes were hung neatly in the wardrobe and stacked properly in the bureau, not crammed in boxes and hidden in the attic. I was free, open, and at ease. I dressed to walk on the beach as a woman, to dine as a woman, and to show-off as a woman. I was born again, not to mention new and improved.

I, and the other girls had the opportunity to strut our talents in the Costume Ball, the Fashion Show, the FanFair Follies, and many other festivities. We learned from expert modeling and make-up instruction and the numerous courses and seminars. I must say though, the most meaningful of all the courses were Niela Miller's Personal Development classes. Confident that I speak for all the girls in her group, I am convinced that the free-flow emotional tear-letting we experienced was the deep-cleansing we had needed and deserved for years. She taught us to show sympathy and warmth toward the others in our group, and to share our joys and sorrows, as women often do and men rarely can. For me, it was the best thing that could have happened and by itself made FanFair worth the time and money.

Of all the kudos to be cast around the Fair, the largest recognition deservedly goes to my first year sisters. They proved from the outset that they were special. Not only did they bring in new blood, with its adrenaline and verve, but continually displayed a high degree of caring and sharing. The warmth and softness these fine ladies exhibited, was akin to the gentle strength of lifelong women. They wiped my tears and restored my smile. The love and closeness I feel for them will be a positive part of me the rest of my life. I have been blessed, and to know them is to be deeply honored.

- Love, Katherine H. (NJ-2073)

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Response to Merissa's Editorial in #54

Dear Editor,

I read with interest your editorial (response) to a letter from a crossdresser's ex-wife. One of the impressions I got from reading the letter itself, although not the main point of this missive, is that the woman may have been one of those folks who was taught by her mother that all men are evil animals. Thus, she comes across as though she was looking for confirmation of this notion and quite happy to have found it.

She seems to be taking the approach of the typical Bible-thumper, who has read through the Scriptures, but hasn't READ them. That brings me to the things I really want to discuss with you, which are the quote from Gloria Steinem, and the references to God.

However admirable Ms Steinem may be, I wouldn't consider her a prime authority on man/woman relationships. Speaking from the position of an avowed Christian, I believe that the pronouncements in Genesis 2:18 and Corinthians 11:11 to be, quite simply, eternal truth; it isn't good to be alone. Never-the-less, I agree with you that male and female were meant to be essentially equal partners, allowing for division of responsibilities along lines which generally best suit each.

You contested the use of a gender specific (i.e. masculine) pronoun for God that the ex-wife chose, contending that the feminine form would have been just as valid. Actually, for those who accept the Bible as authoritative, I wonder why so many insist that it must be one or the other, or, worse yet, neuter. Of course, such usage comes to us by way of tradition, because the vast majority of accounts in the Hebrew scriptures indicate the ancients as dealing with God as a singular entity. What they ignore is the account given in Genesis 1:26,27. Who is God talking to when saying, "Let us ...", and where did He/She get the pattern for the other sex if the Creator is only male, or female?

It would seem from the evidence that the Creator is actually a COUPLE, one of each, male and female. How else could they create us "..in God's image ... male AND female ..." Why else is it so important that neither be without the other "... in the Lord"?

Recognizing that I will be accused of quoting out of context, I encourage anyone who reads this to also read the references cited. They are brief and to the point - and certainly NOT out of context.

Hopefully, those who read this understand that it is neither better nor worse to be either man or woman, male or female, only different. When society stops supporting the chauvinism, or reverse-chauvinism, that promotes one above the other, it will begin making real progress toward human freedom and dignity (and probably not before). I'd like to think that our Community is providing significant leadership in that direction. God bless you for your part in it.

Eileen McCleary (CA-1101)

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Response to 'Through The Looking Glass'

Dear Editor,

It was with some interest that I approached Michael-Lily's article on transgendered Native Americans. I always applaud any serious attempt at scholarship in this area; and it is in the interest of promoting good scholarship that I feel a few points need to be made.

(1) The use of the word "transvestism" is highly questionable. Certainly in the old sense it applies; but in the sense in which I.F.G.E. and Tapestry currently use this word, it doesn't. While my research indicates that heterosexual behavior is not unheard of among "berdaches" (contrary to Walter Williams' contention in "The Spirit and the Flesh"), neither is it the norm. Most of these people, if married, were traditionally married to people of the same biological sex; and I have seen no evidence to indicate that they dressed as they did in response to an erotic fetish. I'm especially mystified that someone who used Williams as their major source material would use the word so readily. Williams himself takes great pains to point out that this label is inappropriate ("The Spirit and the Flesh" pp. 71-76), and while he has problems equating them with transsexuals (ibid, pp. 79-80), he generally agrees that this is a closer analogy (ibid, p. 125). In my view (to use the I.F.G.E. vocabulary) "transgenderism" comes even closer. In the name of consistent editorial policy, I feel the word "transvestism" should have been excised.

(2) "Hanta Yo" by Ruthe Bebee Hill is a work of fiction. Most Lakota people who have read it find it highly objectionable, as it gives a horribly distorted view of Lakota culture (Bea Medicine, "'Hanta Yo': A New Phenomenon", The Indian Historian, Summer, 1979. Also: "'Hanta Yo': Authentic Farce", Lakota Studies Dept., Sinte Gleska College, Rosebud, SD, 1980). Considering the number of bonafide references there are available on Lakota culture (many of them by Lakota people), I'm a bit dismayed to see it used as a reference in a serious article.

As I said previously, I applaud any serious attempt at scholarship in this area. I've written several reviews of "The Spirit and the Flesh" (some including critical objections I won't go into here), and I'm currently at work on installment #2 of a series of articles on the subject. It's refreshing to find that I'm not the only one around who's working in this area.

To Michael-Lily: Best wishes in your continuing search.

Nicole Storm,
Anthropological Editor,
'Gender Expressions'

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Professional Directory, Foundation Fund

Dear Editor,

I have had two things on my mind for a while which I would like to take this opportunity to discuss. I want to talk about a directory of professionals and a paracultural foundation. I will discuss the directory first.

Over the years a relationship has developed between the paraculture and certain members of the professional community. Generally I think this has been synergistic. It has allowed the professional community an opportunity to meet members of the culture besides just those seeking professional help. They have been able to find out more about us and to enlighten the community as a whole.

From our side of the fence, we like to work with knowledgeable competent professionals who want to help us when necessary. I have heard enough stories of people paying to educate a counselor before the person can do them any good. It would be like me educating my doctor so he could prescribe medicine for me. Or, stories where a couple goes for counseling and all the counselor wants to do is "cure" the crossdresser of his horrible habit.

It would be to our benefit to identify a list of a few hundred professionals who we have talked with and feel qualified to do services for us. I hope that one thing which will come out of this effort is more association with the professionals on a

local or grass roots level. Let them see us having fun.

There is another motive in wanting to do this. A thorn in my side is the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. (Known by its acronym and version number as DSM-III-R.) According to DSM-III-R, crossdressers suffer from a mental disorder. Few knowledgeable professionals use crossdressing anymore as a basis for a diagnosis. I hope crossdressing as a disorder will not appear in DSM-IV. The more we can work with professionals on a local level, the better is the likelihood for this to happen.

Several people have expressed an interest in such a directory in the past. Everyone seems to think it is a good idea, but it has not happened. In principle it is quite simple to accomplish. This letter is being sent to over a hundred paracultural leaders and professionals. Each of us probably know or can obtain several names. I know several in Albuquerque. If each of us were to simply pool our resources, we can assemble this directory quickly.

If there is someone who wants to own this project, let me know. I want to help in any way I can. Any names I receive I will funnel to the proper channels. I am more than happy to assemble the directory myself.

The second item I want to discuss is that of a paracultural foundation. I am 55 and while I don't plan to die tomorrow, there will come a time when I will leave an estate. Part of that estate I want to make available to the community.

Several people have tried to establish such a foundation in the past. The problem is that most paracultural organizations are dominated by a single individual or small group. This makes it difficult to raise money. What I envision is a non-profit corporation, run by a board of directors, independent of any individual or cause. This foundation can raise significant sums of money and function as a fair and impartial vehicle for disbursing the finds available.

The timing now may be right. We can now identify a large number of qualified established paracultural leaders and professionals who could comprise such a board.

I said I would help to make it happen. I try to keep my word.

Glenda Rene Jones
Box 13083
Albuquerque, NM 87192-3083

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(Wisdom From IXE, edited from IXE Newsletter, published by IXE, P.O Box 20710, Indianapolis, IN 46220)

Dear Editor,

How many of us believe that if others would only understand our need to crossdress, most of our personal problems would just fade away? I used to. When I left the closet in May of '87, I had visions of totally integrating my male and female self. This goal would be accomplished by joining a local group of crossdressers informing selected friends and family of my secret lifestyle and doing research into the phenomenon in general. I joined two local groups, and was not rejected by any member of the clan. I hit the books - but was still uncomfortable. I now realize I fell into a trap... I wanted to understand myself AND be understood by others.

Understanding! Doesn't that give you a warm feeling in your belly?... visions of hugs, smiles and eye to eye conversations without words? Forget it! Reality is, "If you loved me, you would have known," or, "I just can't figure him out," and "Buzz off pervert!" Ask the impossible - expect to be disappointed.

I asked others to understand me. Some were empathetic, others indifferent, a few too busy, and a couple actually had the gall to want me to reciprocate. After all the effort and time expended I was still an enigma to myself and others. So, just what is a body to do?

Forget trying to understand people - it can't be done. The attempt involves too much time, self analysis and emotional energy. The public will never understand crossdressing. Women will never understand men. Gays will never understand heterosexuals. Arabs will never understand Jews. No one will ever understand anyone else. It's time to grab the shotgun and start blasting away... or, maybe there is one other alternative - accept people as they are.

Acceptance is knowing we have no mandate from God to judge others. We have to be big girls and boys, and realize we are not the center of the Universe. Easy to Do? Not really, but real understanding demands divinity, while acceptance only requires a bit of maturity and common sense. All my loved ones accepted the fact that I crossdress. Many do not want to see or hear about it, and I have to accept that. I want people to accept me so I attempt to do likewise. All my personal problems are still with me, but accepting myself makes them a bit easier to take.

- Sarah (IXE)

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(Wisdom from Tri-Ess: Edited from the Femme Mirror, May, 1989)

Ten Commandments for Crossdressers

Thy femininity is a sacred part of thee; thou shalt not bow down before the strange god 'Macho', or the false god 'Guilt".

Thou shalt not speak ill of a crossdressing sister or her organization.

Remember thou the confidences of thy sister, and keep them holy.

Honor thy spouse - she is thy loving support.

Thou shalt not kill thy masculinity or thy femininity; both are gifts of the Lord to thy soul.

Thou shalt not commit a double standard.

Thou shalt not steal thy soul's appreciation of beauty in art, music, nature, and literature, for these are the petal of femininity.

Thou shalt bear thyself as a lady at all times.

Thou shalt covet every chance to nurture and help those in need.

Thou shalt covet every chance to learn and to teach, for with understanding abide toleration and love.

Jane Ellen Fairfax
Houston, TX

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Poets' Corner:

When I take my Premarin

I take it orally

Little purple football pills

To make a rounder me

Orally, orally, two of them,

two of them a day

Soon I won't need falsies in

Give my pads away

Orally, orally, two of them,

two of them a day

I will get more feminine

and chase the male away

- ANON

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Poets' Corner:

Skeptical Eye

Hello skeptical eye that stares to see.

How does that eye behold me?

What do you see?

Chinks in a feminine image you think you know?

A face that is scarred and shoulders broad?

A veined and powerful hand, or does it see the way I stand?

Don't make your mind up too fast with that skeptical eye you cast.

The face is scarred from my brother living too hard, trying to escape me.

The shoulders broad carried our Country's values in a foreign land.

These hands built the pipeline in ice and snow so that you would have fuel to make your vehicles go.

I stand on guard; afraid, vigilant of your skeptical eye allowing my vulnerability to show.

So cast that gaze in another place.

Choose a face that makes you more comfortable and offers no challenge for you to grow.

Your skeptical eye favors neither of us.

- Kyndel Fay M. Kellis (AK)

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Poets' Corner:

THE DECISION

Traveling down this pathway chosen so very long ago.
It is here... before me... that I look to the crossroads of my existence.
How surely this will impact upon my distant uncertain destination.
Weary from my odyssey of the past I stop,
and reflect upon, the ultimate decision I alone must now make.

Which way shall I go?

Should I forge straight ahead, following this predetermined course
which will lead me ever closer to that image I yearn to attain?
Hopeful of finding that special someone who can knowingly
understand me, caress me, yes, and even seek to aid me.
This then would certainly bring reason and meaning to my life.
In this struggle that is fought for the love of another,
will I be pushed away to fight an unending war in hope of a faint
glimpse of that imagined joy that I will never cast my view upon?

Which way shall I go?

Shall I follow the advice often given forth so freely,
facing to the right to fight off
all thoughts and memories like a battle to be won?
Will I... could I... might I actually succeed in finding happiness here?
More likely, will I fail... lose the battle...
suffer a crushing defeat at the calloused heart of another?
All for the satisfaction in knowing that I am
somehow, in some way, where I belong.
Seeking contentment solely
in knowledge I have seen the end and no victory can be claimed.

Which way shall I go?

What if I turned to the left, seeking yet
another alternate path worn well by many others.
I could attempt to balance my thoughts and memories,
only to then encounter the ridicule of friends,
the pain of loneliness, and the loss of my own true worth.
Robber barons surely await to snatch away the very essence
of my own self-worth through this, my own, ability to love,
express thoughts and emotions, and in what I care most about?

Which way shall I go?

Maybe it is better for me to quickly take my leave
Back-stepping from this foothold to the very place I have been.
Realizing solace through the knowledge of what now awaits me.
Past decisions made and changes that could have been,
now clutter the certainty with which I place each step.
Turn my back on yet another, hoping it too will but go away.
Knowing it will not, and pushing me ever closer... and closer still...
to the precipice of self-annihilation.

Which way shall I go?

Casting aside my thoughts of the past for the moment wrapped around me,
I wonder aloud why it is that my feet now remain
frozen in this spot called indecision.
Whether it is this route or that, this fear or yet another which lays in wait.
A step once taken can never be recovered.
Yet to progress from this place is to beseech of the heaven above
to answer the remaining time-honored inquiry still retained deep within,

Who's life is this anyway? Indeed, who's life am I to lead?

- Michelle L. Gerald (MD)

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Response to:
'Through The Looking Glass--Crossdressing In American Indian Culture',
by Michael-Lily (Tapestry Issue #54)

THE BERDACHE TRADITION: A MODEL FOR PERSONAL GROWTH AND CULTURAL ACCEPTANCE

By: Kyndel Fay Mercedes Kellis (AK-2087)

Each TAPESTRY I read and enjoy brings such a flood of emotions. I laugh and cry, sometimes simultaneously. I see and read about people living their lives as only they can, expressing who and what they are, personifying their character and spirit, and I am enriched. As a result of this enrichment and encouragement by the IFGE and the TAPESTRY, I, too, have begun to express my own true spirit.

Other emotions have been triggered, my chain gets jerked, objections are raised, new concepts and ideas pondered and explored. Some of the new ideas and concepts cause me to ask myself, "Why does this article jerk my chain? Why am I choosing to wear this collar and chain anyway?"

I would like first to address the point-counter point issues regarding Lily's article, "Cross-dressing in American Indian Culture" and then delve into my understanding of the phenomena of the berdache. I hope to show how it may be a valuable model of personal growth and social acceptance for individuals in our community.

1. The book reviewed by Michael-Lily is correctly and fully titled THE SPIRIT AND THE FLESH: Sexual Diversity in American Indian Culture and is not, as Lily states, "an in-depth study of transvestism among American Indians" who are Native Americans. Transvestism did not exist in the Native American culture.

Transvestism, is, of course, a western clinical term used to describe variant gender/sexual behavior expressed in a bi-polar gender culture.

Native American cultures that supported berdachism were not bi-polar by the very nature of their acceptance and reverence of the berdache.

Walter williams' book is an excellent piece of research about a third gender role, termed berdache (burr-Dawsh) by the French explorers who documented this cultural variation in this country.

2. The Great Spirit is not well translated as the "Great Mysterious". D.H. Lawrence writing about the culture of the Southwest (The Vast Old Religion of Taos, 1936) noted: "It was a vast old religion, greater than anything we know: more darkly and nakedly religious. There is no God, no conception of a god. All is god. But it is not the pantheism we are accustomed to, which expresses itself as "God is everywhere, God is in everything". In this Indian religion everything is alive, not supernaturally but naturally alive." Everything has its own spirit, its own energy, a fundamental life force which is the basis of everything that exists."

The concept of The Great Spirit is not easily translated into our language because of our western concepts of subject/object relationships; e.g. ... we are here and God is out there. In the Native American culture that type of relationship dies not exist. They do not perceive their relationship to nature (the world) as special. They do not believe themselves to be in any type of contractual agreement or responsible to powers or divinities. The offerings that are made in song, dance, and sacrifices are made to recall the relationship of equals and spiritual friends.

For a more thorough insight of Native American philosophies I would suggest Jamake Highwater's book, The Primal Mind: Vision & Reality in Indian America Meridian, 1981.

From my own perspective The great Spirit is as real and tangible as the print on this page, the air we breathe, and the love we experience; but I don't think it mysterious at all. If any mystery at all exists, it is our inability to express the divine except by metaphor.

3. I realize that the last thing our community needs is another name to call ourselves. However, to call the berdache cross-dressers is thenocentristic and negates the richness of the berdache tradition. Berdache are such because they adopt the clothing and mannerisms of women and because of their social role, their expressed spirituality, and

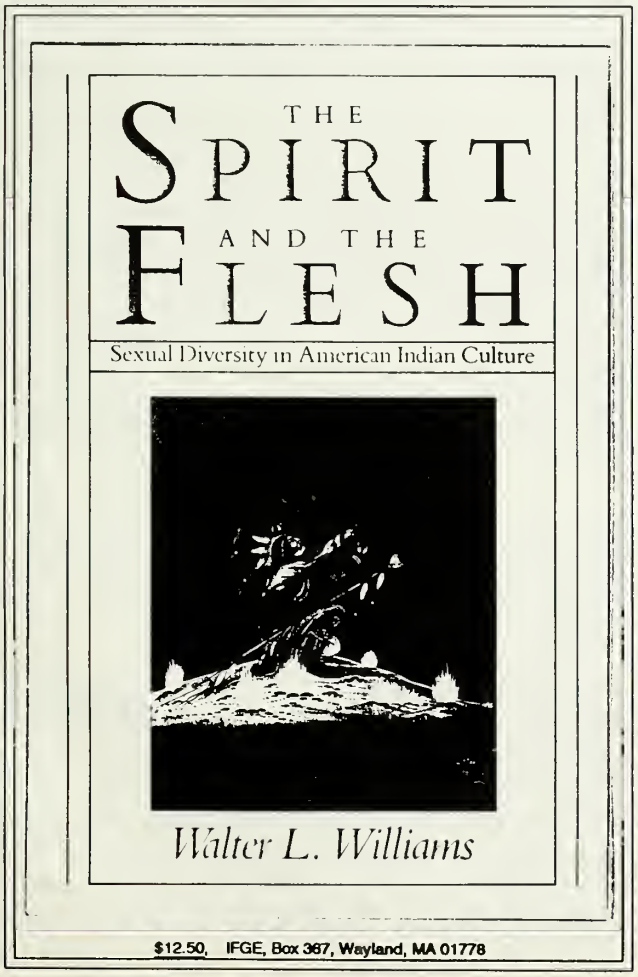
their contribution to the group (society).

Because of their gender/sexual variance they were empowered. How many of us today feel empowered by our gender and/or sexual variance?

This is a kind of chicken-and-egg exercise, but which do you think happened first? Were the berdache always treated with respect for their variant behavior, or did one of our sisters thousands of years ago, suffering the literal slings and arrows from her tribe for her difference hike up her skirt and say, "I can do both men's and women's activities better than a man or woman; plus a few other things." Did she prove herself to be a valuable asset to the group? I will bet on the latter. She empowered herself and her community showed their support because she was so empowered.

The "T" terms and other Western clinical and observational terms are not synonymous with the term "berdache", but "Berdache" could be all inclusive of these and other gender and sexual variations.

From my interpretation of Williams' book, and through conversations with him, it is my sense that the continuum of gender and sexual expression exhibited by the berdache was and is as varied as it is in our community today. If we are seeking and following our spirit, our true character as it relates to gender/sexual expression, our own internally generated definition of ourselves, and we use our talents/gifts to make valuable contributions to society, then we can be called berdache no matter what clinical label we are given to accommodate our personal goals.



4. Lily seems to be calling the tradition of the berdache "high-minded, idealistic ... lunacy" and questioning the reality of this model of gender variation and cultural acceptance. She asks, "Why we don't see evidence of it in our own lives?"

If being empowered by our own spirit, our own sense of who and what we are, and as a result being accepted by our culture, is high-minded idealistic lunacy, let's rave on sister! As Wendi says, "Let's go for it!" If you want evidence of it in our own lives look at where we have been individually and collectively and where we are now.

Two years ago I was a scared individual. I was alone with a killer with an itchy trigger finger who had very little tolerance for gender variation. Today I am becoming a whole person and I am definitely not alone. I have met some of the brightest, most creative, artistic, compassionate and loving people I have ever met in my life who thought they were alone also. I have shared who and what I am with more people than I ever thought possible outside the gender community, (one of which is now a member of IFGE) without a single derogatory comment. From a purely subjective standpoint that is pretty good evidence for me.

In a collective sense, when police officers feel compelled to take the time to compliment our sisters who are having a good time in public! ... I rest my case.

5. Lily, when you say "voodoo/placebo effect" you mean our enculturation process, you are absolutely correct. Not only are we affected by this process, but I read an article in The New York Times by Carol Lawson entitled "Stereotypes in the Toy Box". In it she quotes an unidentified (with good cause) Manhattan mother as saying, "It's okay for girls to be tomboys, but I don't want my son developing feminine traits".

We have met the enemy and she is us! What does this statement tell us about this person's concept of self as a female? What does this tell us about the status of women in our culture?

Among other things, this tells us we as a community are not the only ones with chicken feathers on us from this type of voodoo. My dictionary defines voodoo as: primitive rites and practices used as an instrument of social control. Right on target, Lily! Being empowered as the berdache were sets the stage to overcome this primitive mechanism of control. It won't happen overnight but as we empower ourselves it not only will happen, it is happening.

EMPOWERMENT

I have spoken of empowerment but what does this mean? What are the characteristics of an empowered

individual? Are they identifiable traits, and most importantly, can we acquire these traits?

Through my association in projects with Alaskan Natives, I have seen how the dominant culture of North America has stripped Native American people of their culture, lifestyle, dignity, and tragically for some, their lives (sound familiar?)

Fortunately there are Native individuals and groups who are working to reclaim their heritage by demonstrating that there is value in the rich Native American culture which the dominant culture can use. These individuals and groups are self-empowered and are standing toe-to-toe with the dominant culture to reclaim their spirit.

I have compiled/borrowed a list of characteristics of what my sense tells me to be the essence of self-empowered individuals. While it is not all inclusive, I do think it is representative of individual empowerment.

1. Self-Acceptance: They generally like themselves--maybe not all o the time--but, generally they find themselves to be acceptable human beings. They don't rate their value as human beings by external definition. Rather they accept themselves as who they are as defined by themselves; as "existing" and that is good enough.

2. Commitment: They generally have something in life they are personally committed to. Their resources are focused and they may devote these resources toward a creative interest. They have commitment to living and experiencing and find satisfaction with involvement with others.

3. Risk-Taking: They are willing to be adventurous without being foolhardy. By taking risks, they have more opportunity to expand their range of experience, creativity and human potential.

4. Tolerance: They allow for differences to exist in people's thoughts, expression, and behavior without becoming unduly upset or rejecting.

5. Self-Interest and Self-Direction: They do not feel "guilty" about pursuing their own unique spirit and seldom use the word "selfish" and its negative connotations. They choose to enjoy life by engaging a plan to eliminate unnecessary pain. They respect their own rights and thereby respect others' rights which aids in the pursuit of wholeness and happiness in life. They accept themselves as important which legitimizes work on their own goals. They are able to work independently and formulate personal goals.

6. Flexibility and Scientific Thinking: They are willing to adjust both intellectually and behaviorally in the practical application of daily life. They use logic to learn from mistakes and use problem-solving techniques as an approach to dealing with life's problems.

Once we have a sense of what empowerment is, we can begin to look at the berdache tradition and see if there is anything within it to enable these characteristics.

While neither Williams nor I advocate becoming like Native Americans, we do agree that "we need to look at some of the wide variations of attitudes that different cultures have toward something like sexual variance and gender variance, and say, "Wait a minute--maybe the things we were taught or the things we have inherited in our own particular culture are not the only way to look at things!" Maybe by having a "different way of thinking about ourselves" we may become empowered (Williams, 1989).

We all need a sense of where we came from, where we are, and where we are going. Our own myths.

The three primary western religions deal specifically with these concerns from a male dominated linear perspective. A perspective that has traditionally rejected gender variance. A perspective fostered by creating and attempting to manage duality. As a result ours is a world of dichotomies; this or that, black or white, male or female. A perspective that has created a bi-polar gender culture which has taken a historically dim view of gender variation.

The berdache tradition also gives us a sense of where we came from. However, this may pose some difficulty for the western enculturated mind to comprehend. We are so conditioned to a Newtonion cause and effect world that some of our beliefs prevent us from garnering a greater understanding of ourselves and our relationship to nature.

We have been here since the beginning, not only in North America, but world wide. Since time began different cultures have had to deal with gender variation. The history of what Williams calls "gender non-conformist", our history is as richly diverse and full of valuable contributions as any unibonded group and may possibly be one of the oldest unibonded groups in existence. As ethnohistory shows, wherever there are men and women, we are there too.

As I have alluded to, different cultures throughout history have supported or discouraged individuals who expressed themselves in variant gender roles. The berdache tradition supported this variance, the variance of gender expression that we now are engaged by.

We have always been here and as long as our gene pool and/or environmental influences stay basically the same, we will always be here.

Plotinus writing in 250 A.D. said, "To any vision must be brought an eye adapted to what is to be seen." That "adapted eye" in the berdache tradition offers a perspective of diffuse awareness. What William Blake called "double vision" and by the term, like the Zuni Indian, he implies not

Religion (TS):

The following three-part article also appeared in various forms in the 'Transsexual Voice' and 'XX Minutes'. For the sake of clarity and brevity, many of the extensive footnotes have been deleted. If you are interested in an unedited version, or are doing research, contact Sr. Mary Elizabeth, c/o J2CP, Box 184, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0184.

SEX REASSIGNMENT AND THE CHURCH: UNJUSTIFIED MUTILATION?

By: Sr. Mary Elizabeth, SSE

Part 1

There was a time, not so long ago, when most answers could be found within the pages of the Bible. The twentieth century, however, has given birth to forces which have had a dramatic affect on all those truths that we regarded yesterday as self-evident certainties. Change is everywhere, and as Bishop John Shelby Spong has pointed out, "Before our normal life expectancy is concluded, the rate and rapidity of change will make our day look as if it had been captured by a slow-motion camera."

Christian response to the new insights and realities of our world has often been condemnation. Galileo and Copernicus were excommunicated, vaccinations and left-handed people were condemned for being Satanic, and anything challenging the authority of the church was condemned as heresy.

The world of Jesus' day has changed, and the world continues to change. Within this whirlwind of change, we must live and worship and witness. (Spong, 1983)

In bits and pieces that are often the subject of lively debate, twentieth century science has been teaching us more about the fine points of how we -- men and women -- differ. We are learning more about our physiology, our psychology, and how social interplay between the two influences both. For each question answered, however, a dozen more remain to be answered. Questions about the ethics of sex reassignment produce even more lively debate; coming down in the end to the conservative view that sex reassignment is inherently wrong or to the liberal view that it is the right thing to do in properly selected cases.

Moral implications of sex reassignment surgery were evaluated by Catholic theologians at the Pope John Center in St. Louis in 1983. They concluded that, "If it were possible for a person objectively to be of one gender while at the same time of the opposite anatomical and physiological sex, then in such a situation hormonal and surgical alterations could be seen as corrective rather than being an unjustifiable type of mutilation in the theological sense." Their conclusion, however, was that... "no clear and definitive moral decision in favor of transsexual surgery could be justified as corrective and therapeutic." (McCarthy and Bayer, 1983)

Sr. Mary Elizabeth, SSE

On the other hand, their position was found to be curiously ambivalent by Jesuit priest R.H. Springer. Springer pointed out that the Catholic theologians acknowledged that both the transsexual and the therapist may well be convinced that the surgery would be genuinely therapeutic

and ethically acceptable, and that some pastoral counselors may well make some judgment (i.e., that surgery is morally justified). While continuing to hold their position that sex reassignment surgery was "unjustifiable mutilation," however, they went on to recommend that one should never consider transsexual surgery until all other treatment possibilities have been explored. This recommendation is one that cannot be over-stressed.

Moral theologians look to the Bible for their answers. As a source of moral values, it needs no apology. "Of all the literature that has come to us from the world's ancient civilizations, none is more fascinating, or as provocative, as the Hebrew Bible. It is highly esteemed by three of the world's great religions -- Islam, Judaism, and Christianity -- and yet to many people it seems perplexing to read, and difficult to understand." (Drane, 1987) Is it possible to make sense of its contents in a way that says something to people living at the end of the twentieth century? As one might expect, the Bible contains no direct references to gender identity confusion or prenatal sex determination. So where can we look for answers?

The controversy surrounding sex reassignment surgery has raged for over thirty years. The cause(s) of transsexualism are disputed among professionals; most of the controversy focusing on whether the etiology is psychogenic or organic. Lacking objective evidence, moral theologians have thus concluded that sex reassignment surgery as a treatment modality is suspect and "unjustified mutilation."

the debate has led many Christians to become very vocal and insistent about the immorality of sex reassignment, rejecting sex reassignment surgery as "... intrinsically outside the limits of ethical medicine, or as an abomination of God." (Ashley, B.M., and O'Rourke, K.D., 1978) These same people often go on to use Scripture as a club to inflict guilt on the transsexual. As a result, many transsexuals live in agony, sincerely trying to reconcile their commitment to God in Christ to their "uninvited dilemma".

God has shown by His actions and nature that His love and concern extend to every area of human life. At the heart of the book of Deuteronomy is the instruction to "Love the Lord you God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." (Deuteronomy 6:5) Likewise, love for neighbors is also advocated -- "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself." (Leviticus 19:18) Jesus stresses the importance of these two commandments by repeating them in the gospel of Matthew 22:34-40 -- I.e., "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

In other words, our love of God must issue in love for men. William Barclay calls our attention to the order of the commandments, however. "It is love of God first, and love of man second. It is only when we love God that man becomes lovable. The Biblical teaching about man is <u>not</u> that man is a collection of chemical elements, not that man is part of the brute creation, but that man is made in the image of God. It is for that reason that man is lovable. The true basis of all democracy is in fact that love of God. Take away the love of God and we can become angry at man the unteachable; we can become pessimistic about man the unimprovable; we can become callous to man the machine-minder. The love of man is firmly grounded in the love of God." (Barclay, 1975)

Barclay's commentary is carried a step further by the late Alan Paton. "Isaiah 1:10-18 and Matthew 25:34-40 make it clearer to us what God's cause is. it clearly has something to do with caring for others. If we do not care for or about others, then no amount of churchgoing, no number of observances, no amount of money given, no amount of believing, will give us any cause worth working for. In fact, one cannot believe in God in a religious sense unless one has this concern for others. To love means to bring one's whole life under discipline, extreme in the case of Francis, 'wholesome' in the case of most others. This discipline, even if not extreme, means, negatively, refraining from any unloving or mean or cruel act, and positively, the offering of oneself to be made an instrument of God's peace." Clearly, our greatest offense is to be <u>unloving</u>.

The Bible, as we've seen, is very clear about our responsibilities and relationship to God and our neighbors, but does it say anything about sex reassignment?

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<u>Part 2</u>

The central question which many gender-conflicted persons have to face at one time or another is, "Does surgery on one's sexual organs constitute a sin against God?"

In part one we began to explore the contemporary view that sex reassignment surgery is unjustified mutilation, and therefore a sin. In this segment we will continue our journey of exploration, seeking to answer that which may very well be unanswerable.

The theological argument against sex reassignment surgery appears to stem in part from the Biblical emphasis that man is made in God's own image and that it was good -- ["Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God saw all that he made, and it was very good." (Genesis)] -- and a lack of objective evidence that a biological conflict between body and mind exists. They allege that gender dysphoria is a psychological phenomenon, which by its very nature is based on subjective experience.

The preceding Creation narrative from the book of Genesis, supported by the medieval church's certainty that the only valid criterion for determining gender identity is our genitals, has left an indelible mark on many, regardless of their individual belief systems. But, what does "in His own image" mean?

Some interpret the image of God in man as a reference to our bodily appearance. However, given the variance of our creation -- i.e. black, white, red, yellow, or olive skinned, not to mention that some of us ar fat, skinny, tall, or short, just what does "in His image" mean?

During the age of enlightenment, we were assured the image of God was our ability to reason. The great thinkers of the Renaissance age located the image of God in one's artistic creativity. Later, the Priests identified it as spiritual faculty, while the Victorians claimed it was our ability to make moral judgments. More recently it has been suggested that it is more of an intangible, rather than a physical likeness of God.

Philosophers and theologians have speculated for centuries on all that can be contained within the mystery of this single phrase. They have projected onto their definitions the principal concerns of their own era. They have projected onto their definitions the principal concerns of their own era, and, despite centuries of debate, no consensus of opinion has been reached.

A more substantial argument might be found in "God created man ..." (Genesis) If God is Creator, and if this Creator -- as the Bible says -- created persons as male and female, does this not hint at Divine or Supreme ownership of our bodies? If Divine or Supreme ownership exists, then do we have the right to make even the most insignificant changes to our bodies -- i.e. face lift, nose reconstruction, etc?

Springer points out that many believers have settled this question, and provides the following in support of their argument: "Humanity falsely believes that its life and the life of creation are at its disposal to do with as selfishly desired. The act of this rebellion is directed toward a tree in the garden ... The threats presented by both nuclear weapons and genetic engineering spring from the conviction that humanity has the right to manipulate, create, and destroy creation as it sees fit. Life is its own to possess. By contrast the biblical picture presents the creation as God's gift to be preserved, nurtured and treasured ... Such actions claim prerogatives for humanity that rightly belong only to the Creator." As additional support of their argument, Springer cites Leviticus 19:19, "Keep My decrees. Do not mate different kinds of animals. Do not plant your field with two kinds of seed ..."

Both arguments, "in His image" and "Supreme ownership", appear to fail in light of God's continuing revelations in medical science. These revelations allow physicians to ease physical and psyche pain in a variety of ways -- in particular, the correction of physical deformities.

Our nature has brought us to equate "ugly with bad and beautiful with good". As every burn victim, handicapped person, and leprosy patient has painfully learned. "We humans give inordinate regard to the physical body, or shell that we live in. Our cultural commitment is to a tall, handsome, and confident male or a slender-yet-shapely, smiling female." (Brand, 1987) Those who do not meet this cultural standard are judged and treated harshly. As a result, hundreds of thousands of surgeries are performed yearly to correct physical deformities, with little, if any consideration, to the notion that we are tampering with the image of God or ownership of His creation. The surgeon's goal is to bring wholeness to his patient. Cannot the same standards of judgment be applied to sex reassignment surgery?

Canon Jones raised the issue of wholeness in his paper 'Theological Questions/Pastoral Responses'... If the human being is made, as Biblical Language states, 'in God's image', then it would seem that it was god's intention that human beings should experience wholeness, since surely the Divinity is One and is Whole." Answers to life's complicated problems are not easily found, but abundant life and wholeness seem to be what the Gospel is all about.

The life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth persistently speaks in terms of healing physical and emotional anguish, touching and being seen among social outcasts, freeing individuals from the bondage of guilt and frustration, and including them with God's unyielding love. Jesus was not a stone caster. He was always eager to restore health to those who were blind or deaf, or palsied, or taken in the act of adultery.

The dominant theme of the Gospels is a Divine Person actively engaged in bringing wholeness and equality to people who are trapped. How then does one justify denying therapies and surgical procedures capable of bringing completeness, wholeness, and oneness to a person desperately in need?

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Part 3

In the first two segments of this series we explored what might be construed by some as a narrow use of Holy Scripture to support the contemporary view that sex reassignment surgery is unjustified mutilation and an abomination in the eyes of God. In this segment we will explore the theologian's final argument: Gender dysphoria is a psychological phenomenon, which by its very nature is based on subjective experience which is, by far, the most difficult to challenge.

The cause(s) of transsexualism continue to be disputed among professionals; most of the controversy, as discussed in segment one of this series, focusing on whether the etiology is psychogenic organic. Money and Ehrhart have

suggested a fetal metabolic or hormonal component may predispose a person towards gender confusion. Block and Tessier have proposed an endocrine theory which assumes that chromosomal and endocrine sex do not always correspond. Another organic theory suggests malfunction in the temporal region. Virtually countless theories abound, with research failing to wholly support any one position.

A plausible explanation for this lack of consensus is the fat that no measurable evidence of hormonal or chromosomal abnormalities have been found, and psychological tests, which can successfully differentiate the transsexual from the so-called normal population, are non-existent. The result is that most professionals accept the theory that best corresponds with their own personal background, education, and clinical experience.

Diagnosis at present centers on the ruling out of other conditions, and is made on the basis of psychological and psychiatric criteria rather than physical criteria. Diagnostic information is obtained through physician/patient interviews, with the patient oftentimes relying on subterfuge in order to realize his or her goal. Diagnosis, therefore, is often questionable and the term 'transsexual' suspect.

The term 'transsexual' has come to cover such a multitude of psychological conditions that all one knows when the term appears in the literature is that a patient, labeling himself transsexual, requested sex reassignment surgery, and the physician accepted that self-diagnosis. For example, a search of the literature, including TV/TS publications, discloses a variety of terms such as 'true transsexual', 'bona-fide transsexual', 'primary transsexual', etc. What do these terms mean? The definitions found in the literature appear more subjective than objective. Small wonder then that Meyer was compelled to write, "I have the terms 'transsexualism' and 'transsexual' both written in my notes in quotation marks. I find that I really cannot use them without quotation marks any longer, because I am no longer confident of their meaning."

"An effective challenge to their argument seems hopeless in view of the preceding facts. The fact that we cannot provide a comprehensive definition, nor fully explain the origins of transsexualism, does not mean that answers are beyond our reach, however." (R. Docter, 1988)

In bits and pieces, that are often the subject the subject of lively debate, God's continuing revelations are allowing physicians to unscramble the body-mind puzzle. While medical science continues to seek answers to the problems at hand, what do we -- the church and society -- do? Will we play games? Or, will we, in faith, struggle together in the reality of the present world depending on a gracious and loving God to minister to and through all persons seeking grace and fulfillment.

The transsexual, torn by the conflict between his physique and psyche, often miserably able to function even on a minimal level, frequently exhibits such extreme unhappiness that suicide or self-mutilation becomes a real risk. Some, however, would do just that. Sincerely believing they object to sex reassignment on moral grounds, frequently conceding that the highest morality lies in providing relief from suffering, they deny the right to this relief to the transsexual. These same individuals may hold that suicide is a mortal sin, while refusing to recognize that the transsexual who does not obtain medical help may very well, in his desperation, choose death as the only alternative from life.

God has shown by His actions and nature that His love and concern extend to every area of human life. The dominant theme of the Gospels is a Divine Person actively engaged in healing physical and emotional anguish ... bringing wholeness. How then does one justify denying therapies and surgical procedures capable of bringing completeness, wholeness and oneness to one so desperately in need?

Our Baptismal covenants, not to mention the Gospels, enjoin us to be compassionate, to strive for justice ... to respect the dignity of every human being. Are we not, therefore, compelled to stand between the dehumanizing forces within society and people, to strive for compassion born of understanding, coupled with the knowledge of what, with God's infinite love, we can accomplish.

May the peace, joy and love of our risen Lord be with each of you, now and forever.

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J2CP Info Services

J2CP Information Services provides information/referral services formerly provided by the Erickson Educational Foundation, JANUS Information Facility, Renaissance: Gender Identity Services, and CORISTA, and educational outreach to church groups, media, and academia. The purpose of the latter is to promote greater understanding among all levels of society.

J2CP provides an information package consisting of pamphlets and literature relating to gender dysphoria syndrome, in particular transsexualism. This information package is available for a donation of $30.00, to cover the cost of research, printing, first-class postage, and secretarial services.

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True Experience:

(Holly B. is co-founder of 'Phoenix Transgender Support' in North Carolina. Write: Phoenix, P.O. Box 18332, Asheville, NC 28814)

HONEYMOON OVER HAWAII

By: Holly B.

Our spirits had first met at a Halloween party. Dianne was a magnificent jungle cat, playful and robust, yet sensuously tender. I was a mysterious woman in black who'd crashed the party on a whim. Our romance was ignited by the hidden reality of those illusions, and, despite her justifiable need to protect her family and co-workers from that aspect of our relationship, by the following Halloween, we married.

On the eve of our marriage, Dianne announced, "You'll never guess where I just won a trip to. A week for two in Hawaii, anytime next year." Even though she was a travel agent, I couldn't believe it - a week for two in Hawaii. I had been fully "out of the closet" for several years, living part-time as a woman. Hawaii would give us a perfect opportunity to share a honeymoon in our favorite romantic mode -- as two women.

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In preparation for our trip I began "dressing" most evening, and dressed more androgynously than usual during the days. I was transforming toward my natural female self, honing my craft of illusion and gaining confidence. Winter was barely over when I began sunbathing to prepare for the tropical rays.

Wearing Dianne's bikini bottoms for an appropriate tan line, I fantasized about what it was going to be like on Waikiki, or going out for the evening. I ran down checklists from head to toe of all the ways I wanted to feminize myself. Those were very pleasant mind-trips.

We looked through our wardrobes to see what else we would need. Shopping for suntan lotion, miscellaneous makeup, jewelry, sunglasses, a straw hat, colorful scarves, and so forth, enhanced the delightful anticipation we were feeling. Then we tackled the biggest challenge -- what I could wear on the beach. Bikinis were out -- too bad. One-piece suits looked pretty good, but I would need a wrap-skirt or a big scarf around my hips to hide my maleness. Finally, all preparations were made and challenges met, and we were ready for the trip.

=-=-=-=

Holly B.

I had never been particularly fond of rising early, but when my first order of the day was to pay homage to the Goddess by transforming myself with feminine adornment, my mood awakened and glowed like a splendorous sunrise. Having taken a ceremonious bubblebath the night before, I transformed into Holly, relishing the idea of staying that way for over a week, and who knew -- maybe longer. I made-up carefully for the "straight" public, then painted my nails. I looked rather like a professional businesswoman who none-the-less enjoyed the sensuality of being female. Dianne said I looked good.

While driving to the airport Dianne confessed her underlying apprehension about the risks involved with my "masquerade", but my enthusiasm and confidence were enough to placate her.

We took off for Honolulu, and were exhilarated by the expectation of being in the Islands by nightfall!. The flight would take eight hours and was a good initial test of my persona, being in close quarters and requiring a touch-up shave in the restroom halfway along. I let Dianne handle

most of the small talk with fellow passengers. There was a cute young mother and her baby next to us who were returning home to the Islands - how nice that must have been. And, how nice it was for me to feel a kinship with "the women and children" on board, to receive that gentle consideration, and begin getting used to being served with that pleasant phrase, "And what can I get for you ladies?"

Somewhere over the Pacific Dianne made an innocent observation that piqued my sense of fantasy. "You know, if you were to look for a job in Hawaii, you'd have a much better chance as a woman."

Toward the end of our flight, the gaily clad flight attendants came down the isles offering bottles of champagne to all the honeymooners. I felt sad for Dianne that we could not accept one without acknowledging the unorthodoxy of our relationship.

As we began circling in over the Islands, in the middle of the largest ocean on the planet, catching glimpses of jagged cloud-piercing mountains, I noticed the penetrating though friendly gaze of a male flight attendant. Perhaps I wasn't as accustomed as Dianne and other women to the art of ignoring such attention. As a monogamous "lesbian", I didn't care pursue the opportunity past playful flirtation, even though I had lured both men and women to the dance floor a thousand times. I was in the real world now -- not the controlled arena of a nightclub -- and though I thanked him for his attention with a smile as we disembarked, I discreetly avoided him later on the ground.

It was an open-air terminal, filled with the most seductively intoxicating fragrance I had ever experienced. We all waited in a courtyard for our lei greeting, surrounded by swaying palm trees, frangipani, male pikake, and a whole new world of tropical flora I was soon to discover. An adolescent girl and boy in native dress greeted each group of travellers with leis and kisses as they were photographed. As two women, we were greeted and kissed by the boy. The leis were gorgeous, each one different, and of course smelled heavenly -- convincing me I had at last arrived in paradise!

We arrived at our hotel, the Princess Kaiulani, at twilight, a magical period bathed in sensuous smells, new sights, and a soft warm receptive glow. I liked our hotel from the start. Right in the middle of Waikiki, it had a wonderful open-air lobby surrounding a lovely garden patio and swimming pool, all lit by torches, paper lanterns, and twinkling city lights. Our room was on the third floor with a lanai (balcony) that seemed to hover right over the pool and garden, facing makai (toward the sea).

Alone at last, we christened our "lesbian" honeymoon with a kiss that would have raised more than a few eyebrows in public. Then we pushed the twin beds together, and wondered what the maid would think.

We unpacked, freshened up, and changed for the evening. I wore a low-cut dress of cotton gauze that made me feel like I was melting into the night air. Balmy tradewinds were pleasantly humid with permeating tropical fragrances as we ventured out for the evening. The feeling of anticipation and adventure was sublime. We took a table by the pool and had a few drinks.

Feeling both festive and serene, we went for a walk. The streets were alive with a great assortment of people and diversions, indeed the cross-roads of the Pacific. We were soon drawn into the International Market Place, which was a fantasy-land of merchants and their wares nestled among huge meandering banyan trees festooned with colorful globes and strings of lights, bamboo treehouses with verandas -- thoroughly enchanting at night. What fun it was getting lost in that maze, watching all the people -- and being watched.

We returned by way of the beach, whose white sand and gentle breakers were illuminated by street and moon light. Standing together quietly on the edge of the city and the sea, we shared this dual blessing of civilization and Nature, male and female -- "the best of both worlds". After sailing into an uncharted sea of sexuality, we drifted back to rest on the sweetly scented shores of newfound paradise.

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The next day we awakened to the sweet smell of our leis. I rose, eager to meet the acid test of presenting myself as a female in the harsh spotlight of daytime scrutiny. I made-up convincingly, and wore my innocent pink dress for an orientation breakfast in the ballroom downstairs.

We sat at large round tables, passing coffee and sweet rolls. Most of the people were over 50, but there were quite a few young couples honeymooning. I rather enjoyed the ambiguity of our status -- so many possibilities, yet none so tantalizing as the truth, which no one suspected.

After a quick change, it was off to Waikiki. It was only a block away, but the persistent tradewinds soon exposed my scarf-draped crotch and hairline, forcing me to use body-english to maintain my illusion until I could safely lie down on the hot white sand for some discreet sunbathing. While Dianne freely walked through the crowded beach to wade and swim, I rethought my beachwear strategy. I noticed that some women wore jogging shorts over their suits, which I happened to have brought, which obscured their crotch lines. Meanwhile, I laid in the warm embrace of the Pacific sun, dreamily aware of the world-renowned ongoing beach party that was Waikiki, comparing it to the fantasies I practiced while earning my base tan weeks ago in the Appalachians. What a joy!

Back in our room, we showered and dressed for some downtown window shopping. Reappraising my hairline, Dianne said she had seen a number of women with hairlines

as high as mine, and that I shouldn't worry. (Thank you, Dianne.)

Emerging onto Kalakaua Ave., we walked past some of the more tenacious street people, including a couple of scruffy young Evangelical Bible preachers -- one of who actually whistled at us and snidely managed to get off the line, "Say, lookin' good, ladies..." Amazing grace indeed!

With the approach of evening, my favorite time of day, we wandered through the aging but still charming Moana Hotel lobby to its enchanting Banyan Court on Waikiki. Seated at a table under the sprawling banyan trees, we absorbed the ambience of Island twilight.

Strolling barefoot down the beachfront, past the distinctive pink abode of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, we were moved by the penetrating rhythms of distant native drums. Returning to the Banyan Court, we reached the origin of the drumming, which accompanied colorful Island dancers.

In our room, we mixed the superlative Hawaiian Whaler's rum with passionfruit juice, and enjoyed the first of several delightful "happy hours" on our lanai overlooking the pool.

It was late, we were hungry, and we settled for a sedate little restaurant nearby, enjoying mahi-mahi fish, and vexing our straight waitress with our quasi-lesbian aura.

After returning to our hallowed boudoir, we surrendered to the true feast of our heart and body's passion.

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The next day we awakened, not from, but as if into this dream that had displaced former reality. Dressing for this new day was even nicer as it felt more routine, putting on what was to become standard daywear: a bathing suit, wrap-skirt, and sandals. I was delighted that my tan made it unnecessary to wear foundation -- just a little blush and powder, then eyes and lips -- so nice and easy.

In search of breakfast, we discovered a popular place around the corner called The Jolly Roger. Our waitress, a cute Puerto Rican named Robin, sang with a warm Spanish accent the familiar greeting, "What can I get you ladies?" It was there we discovered Kona coffee -- the kick-starting local brew.

We drove our rented car around Diamond Head and up the rugged coastline with its dramatic vistas, making stops along the way. Circling homeward on Pali Highway through steep mist-shrouded mountains, we stopped at the huge Ala Moana Shopping Center where we ordered Hawaiian Heirloom Wedding Bands, trying not to be too conspicuous.

Back on Waikiki for more sunbathing, a TV commercial was being filmed using a dozen teenagers. I couldn't help noticing that one of the native girls was an absolute knockout. One special benefit of being trans-gendered was the permission given my eyes to contentedly drink in female beauty, without being perceived as a male threat.

Later, I dressed up in a slinky purple dress, and strolled down Kuhio Ave. with Dianne, where we found a fabulous place called The Blue Water. The atmosphere was salty, the menu looked tasty, the waitresses were very attractive, and they were even playing our kind of music. Multi-level dining terraces overlooked a well-used dance floor. This must have been heaven! After a great seafood dinner, I tried to coax Dianne onto the dancefloor, but this was one of those times that my wanton joyousness exceeded her sense of decorum. We lingered awhile to savor this panorama of pleasure which we had become part of, before venturing into the festive nightlife.

We enjoyed the kaleidoscope of people passing in the sweet night air, until our high heels led us homeward at the midnight hour.

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After another great breakfast at The Jolly Roger, the Kona buzz took us further uptown for more window-shopping, where Dianne found a sexy pink and black bathing suit. As we marveled at the fanciful variety of earrings all over town, Dianne commented, "Gee, it's too bad you didn't get your ears pierced before we came here."

We were on the beach most of the afternoon. I even managed to wade and swim a little -- without getting arrested! Holly was finally baptized on Waikiki.

That night I put on my silky strapless tropically flowered red dress, and began to feel more like a native: carefree and sensual, in perpetual full bloom. Sipping rum cocktails on our lanai, I wrote postcards: "Wishing you were here -- wishing we <u>all</u> were here -- forever..."

The evening's repast was a humble one, taken on-the-go in the midst of our nocturnal explorations. Later, as we were approaching that same obnoxious street preacher, I felt my blood rise up in anticipation. he was just about to hurl some of his "hell fire and damnation" at us, when I caught him square in the eye with a cool gaze of spellbinding seduction, moist lips gently parted, and an unbroken rolling stride. Maybe "the devil made me do it", but in that moment of truth I saw him tempted -- almost gratefully -- out of his austere hypocrisy, abandoning its denial of Natural desires, and into the living arms of the immediate sensuality I, ironically, embodied. How illuminating for both of us on our separate paths -- he to question his zealous excess, and me to have realized mine -- each for the greater glory of the whole!

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Ah, the life of leisure in paradise! We rolled out our straw mats on waikiki and sunbathed all morning...

That afternoon we drove north through pineapple fields of the Island's interior to Waimea Falls. We watched divers plunge from rocky heights into the crystal blue pools. Hiking back down the creek, we enjoyed flora and fauna, and stopped reflectfully at a replica of an early village. Each hut had a unique purpose, and this having been a patriarchal culture, there was a special hut to confine menstruating women. Once again, the undeserved sin and shame placed on females.

Driving downstream, we reached the sculpted crescent beach and wasted no time plunging into the water. Being relatively alone, we felt free enough to frolic. This was the way it should be! -- two women free to splash and "goose" and embrace each other, in the sea that was Venus' birthplace. I let the salt water dry in my hair as we drove homeward, and felt a little funky, yet righteous in Nature, as I traversed the hotel lobby to catch the elevator.

Shifting gears, we dressed up for an elegant evening at one of the fancier restaurants we scouted earlier in the week. I wore a sophisticated silky red cocktail dress and took extra care with my makeup for a more high-fashion look.

We were looking for the restaurant entrance when a pleasant middle-aged businessman stopped us to ask directions in a mildly flirtatious manner, amazed that my profusion of curls was natural, and so on. I was amused that this nice man could have been my father, thoroughly taken in by the illusion I had made into reality.

The Monterey Seafood Restaurant was a romantic candlelit place, one story up, right on Waikiki. As we were escorted to our table-for-two on the terrace overlooking the beach, we passed through the rich and evocative assortment of people, their conversations and laughter, the clink of glasses and the mixed aromas of fine food -- a total appetizer for the senses. Commencing with the welcome refrain, "And what can I get you ladies this evening?", our cute and friendly waitress brought us cocktails. As we sipped, feeling the soft breeze and listening to the surf, basking in each other's smiles, Dianne said, "You look really beautiful tonight." Ah, and so did she, and how could our appearance fail to show the beauty of this moment -- when we felt we had finally arrived, when circumstance at last joined and resonated with our deepest longing, and the joy that wholly saturated us held the timeless momentum of contented bliss. We looked out at the long slender white breakers melting into the torchlit beach, where a woman and a man stood kissing, oblivious to time and space, throughout the duration of our delicious and leisurely feast... a most fitting serenade.

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The next morning as I gently awoke I became aware of the soft Hawaiian music with its steel guitars which had been wafting up from the courtyard, as delightful as the sea breeze.

We drove past Diamond Head to Hanauma Bay, and rolled out our mats. Snorkeling was the featured activity there, but a shower drifted in and we decided to move on, driving along the coast, enjoying the sights...

Back at our room, Dianne spontaneously seduced me, and clearly enjoyed the aspect of our love-making as two women. While it was very intimate and sexy, I speculated later it was then that we conceived, which prompted friend to comment, "There ain't no such thing as a free trip to Hawaii." Yet, what more fertile beginning for a love-child?

After "happy hour" on our lanai, we headed out to The Blue Water for our last supper, and enjoyed all it had to offer.

While once again wending our way through the International Market Place, Dianne seemed determined to buy me something. After finding a pretty puka-shell necklace and a cute black tank top, she fantasized, "If you could spend more time as a woman, I'd love finding all sorts of clothes to deck you out in..." I then selected a local perfume that best typified the Island's floral fragrances -- a memento to evoke full-blown olfactory reminiscence.

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Daughters of Isis

We drove out to Kalakaua to find The Wave, a disco where ladies in love could dance. The atmosphere was casual and fun, and there was a live rock band. Home by midnight, we commenced the real party.

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Finally, our last day in Hawaii had come. We slept late, and weren't dressed and packed until noon. We strolled all around town, quite nostalgic, as Dianne bought a pretty lei to wear home. We wound up at a table in the Banyan Court, looking wistfully out over Waikiki, already feeling removed from this happy scene. One last photo of each other, then caught our limo to the airport.

Though Dianne was somewhat ready for our trip to be over, I was almost numb with sadness. Here we found paradise and a life for Holly -- why must we leave?

Eight hours later we landed in Chicago, where it was already dawn.

Robbed of a night's sleep, I wasn't sure whether some of the people we passed in the terminal were looking at us because of how rough we looked, or from what exotic place we had come. Before going to freshen up I told Dianne I was beginning to feel a little exposed. She replied, "You look better than I do." I went to the ladies room to touch up my face (shaving in a closed stall), then freshened my makeup,, which was rather fun with all the other women in that huge bathroom with its long mirror, primping in a friendly atmosphere.

We arrived in Charlotte and disembarked with Monday's business commuters. Crossing the terminal to claim our baggage, I was conscious of a confidence newly earned as a proven female traveler.

Driving home, Dianne bestowed the final compliment of our journey, "I've really enjoyed being with you as Holly." I expressed my gratitude for her putting herself "on the line" with me, and for the liberating acceptance of her love.

After unpacking at home, it was time to relinquish this woman I had become, and rejoin the banality of everyday life. "I know it's hard to change back," Dianne consoled.

Again, with the excruciating numbness of letting go of what was truly real, I vowed that someday, somehow, I would reclaim my life-long dream of living the incomparable joy of my womanhood... the ongoing heightened sensuality... the celebration of beauty, grace, and ease... maintaining interaction on the sublime plain of love... a life of leisurely sophistication, emotional warmth and compassion, intellectual pleasure, and spiritual serenity... and I will make it last.

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MEN MALE ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK

(Linda DeFruscio is a registered instructor of electrology at the Eleanor Roberts Institute of Newbury College in Boston, Massachusetts. Linda has been in private practice since 1978, and has had extensive experience in beard removal and other difficult hair removal problems. Questions, inquiries, and comments may be addressed to: A&A Electrolysis Associates, 815 Washington St., Suite 5, Newtonville, MA 02160 (617) 965-9622)

(ELECTROLYSIS LECTURE SERIES: #1)

THE PREVENTION OF DISEASE AND INFECTION

by: Linda DeFruscio, R.E., R.I.

There is currently a great deal of basic information concerning electrolysis being published in various TV/TS publications. It's not my intention to regurgitate redundant information. Rather, I would like to examine those issues concerning electrology that go beyond the basics.

Two potentially serious problems concerning electrology, and two of the problems I get the most questions about, are disease and infection. By disease I mean communicable diseases that are viruses such as Hepatitis B, AIDS, and even the common cold, which could be transmitted by infected implements, dirty hands, coughing, etc. (There has never been a reported case of a person contracting AIDS via electrolysis, but the fear is there, therefore preventative steps must be taken.) By infection I mean bacterial diseases such as folliculitis, skin infections, and blood poisoning. Erythema (redness) and edema (swelling) are normal after an electrolysis treatment and are neither a disease nor an infection.

The prevention of disease and infection begins with the electrologist and ends with the patient. However, it is the patient's responsibility to make sure the electrologist knows what he or she is doing. This is especially important if the patient is in one of the 23 states that do not require an electrologist to have a license or for that matter, have any training. Even in states that require licenses and training, some electrologists may not be very careful in preventative care. Therefore, it is caveat emptor for the patient. However, even an unskilled or careless electrologist is less dangerous than do-it-yourself electrolysis. That includes using everything from mail-order $19.95 specials, to home kits bought in department stores, to expensive professional equipment. Besides a slow and ineffective treatment and experiencing considerable discomfort, the home operator runs a serious risk of injury, disease, and infection... especially infection.

Massachusetts and New Hampshire have some of the most stringent laws in the country concerning sanitation, sterilization, safety, and communicable disease precautions. For instance, a registered electrologist is required to have a minimum of 1,100 hours of training including extensive study of anatomy, physiology, microbiology, dermatology, endocrinology, and medical terminology. This extensive training is necessary in order for the electrologist to understand skin and follicle construction, hormone imbalances, proper use of implements to prevent damage, congenital patterns, and the causes and prevention of disease and infection. Simply put, an untrained person should not be practicing electrolysis.

Precautions for the prevention of disease and infection should be followed before, during, and after the entire electrolysis treatment. Before the treatment the electrologist needs to prepare himself or herself and implements. Cleanliness of office, electrologist, and patient is a must, so I won't get into that. However, the implements (forceps, probes, and scissors) must be sterilized. That does not mean swabbing the probe down with a little antiseptic or running it through a flame. That means <u>sterilized</u>!

First the instruments must be cleaned by either an ultrasonic cleaning devise, or scrubbing brush and soap, or 70% or 90% alcohol. Then the instruments must be sterilized. This is done by using either an auto-clave, or a dry heat sterilizer, or by using pre-sterilized disposable implements. (I personally prefer using an auto-clave and disposable probes.)

An auto-clave uses steam heat under pressure at 350° F for a minimum of 20 minutes (the same device used by dentists and the medical profession). A dry heat sterilizer is a dry heat oven used at 320° F for two hours. A bead sterilizer (which reaches 450° for two minutes) is still frequently used. However, the Disease Control Center in Atlanta has not proven the bead sterilizer to be effective against disease or infection, and for that reason should not be used. Cold sterilization is chemical sterilization, and like the bead sterilizer is still frequently used. However, chemical sterilization is only partially effective against transmission of infectious organisms and should not be used. Pre-sterilized pre-packaged disposable needles or probes are currently being used and are widely accepted in the profession.

Remember, treatment means inserting a sterilized probe into a hair follicle, cauterizing the hair root, then removing the hair. Once the hair has been removed the follicle remains open and becomes more susceptible to infection. The electrologist can considerably reduce the possibility of disease or infection by simply donning a disposable surgical mask and gloves.

The electrologist must then prepare the patient. This is done by washing the area with a disposable masslin towel and phisoderm cleanser or soap and warm water to remove any make-up or debris on skin. A sterilized cotton swab dampened with 70% alcohol is then used to remove any remaining debris. Another cotton swab with topical anesthetic is then applied to desensitize the area to be treated. The patient is then ready for treatment.

During the treatment the electrologist periodically cleans the implements and the patient's skin with 70% alcohol. This removes any debris to ensure the cleanliness of the work area.

When the treatment is completed the electrologist should apply a cool compress to the treated area to sooth the skin and reduce erythema and edema. When that is done the electrologist should swab the skin with 70 % alcohol or some other type of antiseptic, then cover the treated area with an antibacterial ointment (such as bacitracin, mycitracin, neosporin, etc.). Some electrologists still use calamine lotion (which is acceptable), and there are medicated foundations that can be used to cover up facial erythema (but ask your electrologist).

When the treatment is completed and the electrologist has done everything to protect the treated area from infection there is a tendency for a patient to disregard post-treatment procedures. However, the greatest danger to infection is after, not during the treatment. The patient must understand that it can take up to three days for a hair follicle to heal, thereby making the cauterized root susceptible to bacterial infection. Also, an infected follicle occurs more often than not from an ingrown hair. Also, there is a strong desire to remove ingrown and untreated hairs with unsterilized tweezers, which increases the possibility of infection. Therefore, proper home care by the patient is crucial.

After the treatment the patient should keep the treated area as clean as possible for at least three days. I also suggest the patient soak the treated area with a solution of epsom salt (or boric acid, or just plain table salt) in warm water (a tablespoon of salt per cup of water). Soaking for five or six minutes shortly after the treatment will help draw out impurities and promote healing. After soaking, wash the area to remove excess salt, then reapply the antibacterial ointment. Repeat this procedure every three to four hours during the first day.

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Even after all these precautions, a patient may still get pustules (whiteheads, yellow headed pimples) or eschars (a honey colored scab). A pustule is the first stage of an infection usually caused by oil in the skin mixed with bacteria in the air. In addition, pustules could be caused by ingrown hairs which are impacted under the skin. With proper treatment (soaking, washing, and antibacterial ointment), a pustule will normally disappear in a day or two. An eschar is part of the normal healing process and will also disappear in a day or two. It should go without saying that the patient should not pick scabs or pop pimples.

In conclusion, if an electrologist follows the recommended procedures the danger of a viral or bacterial infection is virtually eliminated. The greatest danger of infection is if the patient does not follow proper home care, or worst of all decides to do the electrolysis him or herself. So, use a qualified electrologist, follow recommendations for home care, and please, never try to do electrolysis yourself.

(Kay's portrait graces the cover of this issue of the Tapestry. If you have not already done so, read Kay's outstanding article 'Transsexuals And Their Parents' which appeared in Tapestry #53. -- ED)

WHO AM I?

By: Kay Metsker (TX-1208)

Who am I? I am not sure.

Once I was predictable. I was educated, trained, and loved - not as I was, but as I seemed to be. My role was my safe way of hiding. There was no reason to change. I was approved. I pleased. Then, almost abruptly, I changed. Now, I was not so absolute, more myself. My role had almost disappeared. My roots were not in my church, my job, my city, or even my world. They were in me. Friends were not as easy to find and I dreamed a lot.

Can you accept me? For who I was.

Who am I? I am not sure.

I am more solitary than before There is no security. Security is blandness and confinement, the postponing of life. Security is expectations and commitments and premature death. I live with uncertainty. There are mountains of anxieties yet to climb, rivers of doubt yet to cross, and oceans of emptiness yet to explore. I am all alone. There is only me - and I dream a lot.

Can you accept me? For who I am.

Who am I? I am not sure.

I no longer search in emptiness and need, but in increasing fullness and desire. I am not as hollow as I was. There are the wind and the ocean, books and music, strength and joys within, and new found friends. There is beauty in the smallest

flower and in the tallest mountain; beauty within me and all around me. There is no role to play, no security to provide, no commitment to make. My reality has become a dream. My dream has become reality.

Can you accept me? For who I will be.

Who am I? I want to know.

I am not an object of pity or ridicule. I am not someone willing to be admired for my courage and determination. I only do what I must do to be who I am. I harm no one. I ache when I am hurt; I am moved when I see beauty; I grieve when I lose someone, a relationship, a way of life; I feel joy when something wondrous happens. I am simply a human being; one with desires, need, and feelings. And I dream a lot, as you do. We are not so different, you and I.

Will you accept me?

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THE BIRTH OF KAY

By: Kay Metsker (TX-1208)

'Kay' was born in Provincetown on Cape Cod at the 1986 Fantasia Fair. That was when I first accepted who I was. My life to that point was just a long gestation period, nibbling at the edges, but too afraid of what family and friends would say if they knew. I decided to live my life the way I wanted and not how others wanted me to live it.

I knew as early as five years old that I felt "different" from my male friends. It was not until I read an article about Christine Jorgensen when I was eleven that I learned of the term 'transsexual'. However, I also learned at an early age to hide my difference or risk ridicule. My childhood was quite normal in spite of the occasional cross-dressing. Fortunately, my sisters and parents never discovered me.

I read and researched as much as I could about transsexualism, but I simply could not accept it. I felt that I would outgrow it or that eventually it would disappear if I ignored it. My image from the media that transsexuals were unstable people, likely to be entertainers or prostitutes. I had doubts about myself since I felt normal. My life was normal except for a nagging feeling that I didn't fit in, that my life was a pretense. I tried to avoid thinking about it, and did things like grow a moustache and join a college fraternity, but I couldn't escape it.

I began a gradual program of change as I tried to sort out my feelings. I started electrolysis on my face and chest, had a tracheal shave, and began to study fashion and makeup. These were all 'safe' actions because no one noticed the changes. My secret was still hidden.

My feelings of discomfort grew stronger, and in 1986 I decided to go to Fantasia Fair. I felt that talking with others would crystalize my thoughts. It was the beginning of my self-acceptance. I finally made a commitment and began to pursue my goal. I began hormone therapy and joined a support group. I told my family and friends. My name was legally changed, along with all my ID's. Everyone at work knew about me, and I began living full-time as a woman.

During my transition I was extremely fortunate. Everyone was shocked, but no one rejected me outright. I believe the low amount of rejection was because of my previous relationships with individuals. As my Dad put it, it is the difference between conditional and unconditional love. If you have a solid relationship based on trust and respect, and you break the news gently, there is an excellent chance you won't be rejected. However, if someone can't accept it after you have given them time and answered their questions, then don't worry about it. It is their problem, not yours. You have no control over the experiences that shaped their opinions.

Fortunately, there is no Texas state law against cross-dressing. Some local ordinances do exist, but the large metropolitan areas are okay. The question of restrooms is touchy, though. Before my transition I had been kicked out of bars for using the women's restroom even though no one complained. The same situation occurred in fitting rooms of department stores. (I did not personally have any problems in the fitting rooms, but some of my friends did.) The key in these situations is to remain calm and not to get argumentative. The fastest way to close a mind is to get a person to be on the defensive.

When I first accepted my transsexualism, I was eager to go out, spread the word, and educate the world. I felt I had a debt to pay for all of the help that I had received in the past. When I started my "real life" test, my goals changed a little. I still wanted the reassignment surgery, even though, as someone put it, the change occurs between the ears, not between the legs. However, I did not want to become a "professional" transsexual. Now that I have completed my SRS, I still want to quietly help educate the people around me, but eventually, I want to be able to fade into society. A book that I just finished, 'The Search For Eve: The Rites of Transsexual Passage', brings up this very point. We tend to progress through a series of labels: TV, TG, pre-op TS, post-op TS, and finally, we get beyond labels. That is my goal, to just be Kay.

TRANSITIONING WITHIN THE WICCA FAITH

by: Cheryl Costa, Shaman Second Degree
Member of the Coverstone Hill Circle, Manassas, Virginia

Part I, The Faith

In the August 1989 edition of 'A Rose Newsletter' was an announcement that read as follows:

An Announcement

The STAR CRESCENT CIRCLE of Binghamton, NY is pleased to announce a Rite of Transitional Passage.

In the twilight of July 7th, 1989, Cheryl Costa (ZEEDA) was granted release from malehood and was rebirthed as a Daughter of the Goddess. The rite was held by the STAR CRESCENT CIRCLE of Binghamton, NY in a private dwelling. The rite was preceded by many hours of pastoral discussion with high priestess (MOONBOW), several hours of male bonding talks, and purging with high priest (WILDFIRE) followed by deep meditation. In sacred circle and in deep meditative trance, Zeeda was granted release from malehood by the Horned One. Zeeda was then presented to the Crone for transition. Starting with the ritual removing of the robe with athames by the Crone, Lady, and Maiden. The faithful one was then reintroduced to the womb and rebirthed. The Wiccan newborn was named Cassandra, adorned with new robes, greeted by all in the circle, and presented to the quarters. Cassandra's first magical tasks were ritual destruction of the former's robes, performing of the great rite (from the other side of the athame) and banishment of the quarters. Cassandra is a member of the COVERSTONE HILL CIRCLE in Manassas, VA, and functions as the Shaman for that circle.

This announcement raised a fury of phone calls to the newsletter's editors, and prompted at least one subscription cancellation. The accusation was 'A Rose' supported Witchcraft!

I was deeply disturbed that this newsnote generated the concern that it did, ESPECIALLY from a community that so desperately desires acceptance and tolerance from society. Within the transgender community we've all felt the fear of ridicule that revelation of our private lifestyles would cause us, fears of losing our jobs and feeling the scorn of our not-so-understanding neighbors. Let me tell you what, ladies and gents. For years I, as a member of the WICCA (Celtic Orthodox) faith, have felt the pain of genuine religious discrimination at its worst. Now here it is again within a community that desires acceptance and tolerance from others.

Many folks in this country take religious freedom for granted, that is if you are of a mainstream faith. If you are not mainstream you are condemned or labeled a cult. You don't know what a closet is until you have to lie about your faith.

Recently in New England a Coven applied for and received tax exempt status. The news of this raised a great deal of controversy, and the ire of Christian zealots. After the headlines about the Drug Cult Murders in Texas, regional law enforcement officers tried to infiltrate our faith groups to find out what kind of nasty people we were. They found out that we weren't nasty people.

Let me draw a parallel. We know that most crossdressers are nice people. A lot of the world thinks crossdressers are sick perverts... until they get to know us, RIGHT? It's purely a problem of misinformation and bad PR, RIGHT? It's the same with Wicca. Before you pick up your Bible and condemn us, think how many times someone has already done that to you. Judgment is the Lord's, not yours or mine.

Before I tell you of my transition within Wicca, it is important you understand a little about Wicca.

Wicca is a pantheist faith, and has nothing to do with Satanism. In fact, most of us do not believe in the Devil as an entity.

A witch as an "evil being" and witchcraft as an "evil practice" are Judeo-Christian conceptions and have nothing to do with Wicca. The word "witch" is derived from the Old English word "wicce" or "wicca" meaning "healer" or "wise one". In Wicca a witch can either be male or female (we don't identify with or use the word 'warlock'), and is a

priest or priestess. Everyone who has been initiated into the faith is considered clergy, and is therefore considered a "witch at large".

"Witchcraft", or "Craft", is a religious lifestyle dedicated to the pursuit and practice of knowledge, wisdom, and compassion under the guidance of the Goddess.

"Magic" is the ability to shape and direct natural (not supernatural) forces to the will of the practitioner. Magic is used primarily as a healing and helping energy.

Wicca holds one God dear, the same God most everyone else believes in. The difference is we see God in the female form with a male aspect, an androgynous Goddess/God. (Wicca is an old religion that pre-dates Christianity. Early in human development God was perceived as female. Only after many years and much bloodshed did a patriarchal God replace the Goddess as the majority belief.)

Wicca is a nature-based faith and believes that all Goddess's creatures and things are holy and vital. The earth is holy, which is why so many members of the Wicca faith are strong and vocal about protecting the environment.

There is equality and balance within Wicca. As the words from THE GREAT RITE say: "Let it be known that no man is greater than a woman and that no woman is greater than a man.... Only through love can new life spring.... This is the greatest magic of all...."

The Goddess is seen traditionally in three aspects, The Crone, The Lady, and The Maiden representing life's never-ending cycle of birth/youth-vitality/maturity-death.

The male aspect, The Horned God, is usually depicted as very virile and vital, usually with stag antlers. This is strictly a conceptualization of what we see as the positive and vital aspects of the male God head. The presentation of the male God head as the Devil is a pure distortion.

I am a Shaman, sort of a high priest and priestess and witch doctor all rolled into one. I am a pal, a spiritual counselor, a healer and a teacher. I am very often a mentor to the new initiates. I guide their reading and study, and I hold their hand during their first magical experiences (something that is profoundly spiritual and emotional). No person asked me to perform these tasks or become a Shaman. One day I was overwhelmed with persons to counsel and support, and I felt the calling. I began having students of the Craft fall out of the woodwork asking for training and guidance, many of these from the TV/TS community. The Goddess works in very strange ways, doesn't she?

Part II, The Transition

About five years ago I was becoming very visible doing talks and presentations on behalf of the TG culture. One day I was shooting the bull with two of my faith's elders. The discussion somehow got off track and we began discussing a local gay men's coven. I was intrigued by the warmth of the thoughts that I was listening to by two straight married men talking about the accomplishments of this unique coven. I decided to take advantage of the opening to real my secret. After a brief but complete explanation of my situation and duality, one of the two elders looked at me and said, "I should get down and kiss your feet." I inquired why, and he responded, "Duality!!!"

Within the Wicca faith we see Goddess/God as an androgynous being with both female and male aspects. He felt that since I was making efforts to express and discover both sides, I must be developing a very interesting sense of spirituality. I was beginning to feel differently about myself, but I wrote that off to just being honest with myself and being out of the closet more or less.

In 1986 I was transferred to Virginia. Shortly after being

transferred I suffered what amounted to corporate burn-out, the sort of crash that happens when your work gets the best of you. The crash was a bad one, and the gender dysphoria issues didn't help. Gradually one step at a time my therapist and I picked up the pieces and rebuilt. I began developing a greater degree of spirituality, and became more acutely aware of my spirit and my Goddess. I started to become a new person.

(I know that there are those who think that everybody has a tendency to get close to God after a serious problem. Maybe so, maybe not. Either way I thank Goddess for the opportunity. For me the gift is that my spirituality has stayed and has become a major force in my lifestyle.)

During my rededication period I started meeting a number of women from within the Wicca faith. These ladies as a rule were quick to befriend me and quick to show me respect as a sister.

In May, 1989, I was telling a high priestess friend of mine about my plans for reassignment surgery. She asked how much I had transitioned, and I explained my body development and softer appearance. She asked me how long it had been since I used my male magical name and wore my male shaman robes. I hadn't been feeling really comfortable with the male things, so it had been about 5 months. She understood that magical practice requires a true heart and peace within oneself, and said, "It was high time that someone held a Rite of Passage for you." She felt it was necessary to transition within the faith and spirit as well as within the physical and mundane.

I knew of NO precedent for such a Rite, but Wicca did have a great deal of latitude for modifying or originating special Rites. For the next month she and several other pagan ladies wrote and crafted the Rite that was performed on July 7. That kind of work was the true test of acceptance and love. In addition to that effort, it was required the old male robes be destroyed in ceremonial fire on the full moon. That was the task of the ladies of my home circle. They hosted a memorial Rite to release the male spiritual aspect by the burning of the male robes. (An unusual thing happened to the robe as it was burnt. It formed a cocoon, which was interpreted to be symbolic of my mid-stage metamorphosis.) The event was very much like a funeral. It was a heavy emotional experience, very sad with a great deal of sobbing, but also filled with joy.

Two more Rites were planned, one on the eve of my transition (October 31), and the other to be held in the Spring of 1990.

The Rite in October was planned by a coven in Ohio the weekend prior to my surgery in Youngstown. The Rite was crafted by people I had never met before. It was a Rite of Transition, to help me rededicate myself spiritually and physically to the task at hand, to help ease my final fears, and to follow my heart. The Rite had a profound affect on us all, and I went to surgery with complete peace of mind.

While in Ohio I was invited to stay with the high priestess and high priest at their home. The Ohio coven arranged for local pastoral support, and local members visited me daily while I was in the hospital. The support I received while I was in Ohio reaffirmed my conviction that the members of the Wicca faith are among the most tolerant and supportive people in the world.

The next Rite (scheduled for next Spring) is being planned by the ladies of the regional tribal council. It is to be considered a final Rite of passage and dedication to the Goddess. It is a recognition by the women of the women of the tribal region to celebrate my new found womanhood.

Two years ago I began developing my spirituality and awareness of my Goddess. These past two years have been the most robust and full years of my life. I look forward to many more good years, Goddess willing.

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"Thank you, to the Tapestry staff for printing this commentary, and thanks to those of you who had the courage or curiosity to read it. I hope this has given you a better perspective and understanding of just who we of the Wicca faith are. To all of you, may the Goddess ease the burdens of your life and put joy in your heart."

--- Cheryl Ann Costa

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PAULA AND CINDY

By Paula S. (WA-1973)

Cindy arrived at my house for our first date at the arranged time, but I wasn't ready, and I called down to ask her to have a seat in the living room. Then I hurried to finish my make-up and comb my wig. Since I hadn't "dressed" in a long time, I was a bit rusty and slow; but everything turned out fine. Finally, I nervously went downstairs in my fuchsia dress and black patent heels to greet Cindy and make my "presentation" .. on our first date!

More about my first date with Cindy a bit later, after I explain how I came to be in such a spot.

I'm sure virtually all cross-dressers have similar stories to tell about guilt, suppression and denial, sexual doubt and frustration. Most of us, sadly, spend our entire lives in the cloak of secrecy, afraid to open up to loved ones and have found a way to emerge into a self-assured and confident world, out of the closet and free at last.

A bit of background first. In common with many cross-dressers, I spent my youth pursuing masculine activities, mainly sports, in my successful effort to establish my male self. My athletic efforts were rewarded with a baseball scholarship to the University of Arizona, where I spent 4 years developing as a pitcher, and fortunately, as a student. Regrettably in 1967, the Army drafted me at the same time as the California Angels, and you can guess who got the rights to me. Thus, the crowning touch to my pursuit of my masculine self was my subsequent assignment to an infantry company in the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam, Republic of.

Eleven months later, after enduring the jungle, red ants, the A Shau Valley and numerous firefights, the inevitable happened: I was hit by enemy fire. Not just hit, but pummeled by no less than seven enemy bullets. End of baseball career, the end of innocence, and frankly the end of a "normal" life. A year in a series of Army hospitals (a story in itself!) and a couple of years in the mountains of Northern Arizona and I was ready to pick up the pieces and rejoin the living.

By 1974, I was working as a recording engineer in the music industry in Southern California, and dating a screwball girl named Priscilla. We had been invited to a real Hollywood-style (well, it was Hollywood) Halloween party. I'm tall and slender, and had a full beard at the time (still in hiding after the war). Priscilla was urging me to go as an outlandish caricature of a woman, complete with fright wig, oversized breasts, and course my beard. I said no, emphatically. Somehow, after two or three weeks of working this out between us, we settled on my going as a glamourous movie star. It was, after all, a real Hollywood party with my peers, and a few famous people. Thus my costume had to be great or I wouldn't bother going.

A couple of shopping trips and about $400 later, we had the necessary elements, although Priscilla did have to modify the dress a bit. The day of the party I shaved off my beard (I was tired of it anyway), and we set about to get dressed. After an agonizing four hours and a lot of cursing, we were finally ready. Since I had never dressed in women's clothes before, I was amazed at the amount of work involved.

As you may have guessed, I was stunned at what I saw in the mirror, and at how I felt wearing a black evening gown and blonde wig. Priscilla had done a great job with the makeup, and without my beard I was completely unrecognizable, even to myself. The party was the most fun I had ever had, with me playing my role to the hilt and nobody knowing who I was. I was the center of attention of a large group of people, many of them co-workers, who since they had never seen me without my beard, never guessed.

As fun as it was, though, it was also very sensuous and erotic, while simultaneously being relaxing and peaceful. But I guess most of you know these feelings. As an extra treat, after the party Priscilla and I went to an after-hours club and I was again lavished with attention.

The effects of that party lasted for weeks. Since I had to show up for work on Monday sans beard, everybody figured it out, and we all had a lot of laughs. Curiously, I also got a lot of sincere compliments, mostly from females, on how great I had looked. Priscilla and I soon drifted apart (she never figured out what all the fuss was about), and I began 14 years of struggle with a phenomenon I didn't know anything about.

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As a mature adult, after my first cross-dressing experience I was faced with a dilemma of deeply psychological origin. I knew (or thought I knew then) that the sensuous and peaceful feelings of that night must be wrong. I also knew that my yearning to do it again (and soon) would no doubt result in socially unacceptable behavior. But I also knew it brought pleasure and relaxation the likes of which I hadn't experienced before. The emotional cloud in my head, left over from the bitter violence of the war, had completely dissipated that night, and didn't return for weeks. Thus the dilemma: As a very masculine and heterosexual male, I should not have found this experience sensuous or exciting; on the other hand, that very experience had brought a peace of mind that had eluded me for years.

My concerns about my perceived threat to my masculinity began to override all other considerations, though, and for several years I suppressed the occasional desires to cross-dress. As a first line of defense I grew a large moustache, so I wouldn't be tempted. Since I had no knowledge of cross-dressing, and had never met anyone who participated, I initially associated my feelings of sensuous pleasure with latent homosexuality. I was not comfortable with that at all, so I overreacted and went out of my way to be more masculine than ever, to prove to myself that night was a fluke. But of course it wasn't, and the desire to do it again would come and go, usually associated with the rise and fall of work stress. During very stressful times the urge would return, only to go away when the rest of my life returned to normal. Although I did begin eventually to give in to the urge, it was very infrequent and was usually followed by yet another bout with self-doubt and guilt. Between 1974 and 1988, I doubt if I dressed more than 20 times, several times going 2 or 3 years between episodes, and of course, following a couple of very stress-related episodes there were the inevitable purges. But still, eventually the desire would reappear and cause more mental turmoil.

One of my biggest problems during these years was my lack of knowledge on the subject. Since I held a degree in Philosophy, I certainly knew my way around libraries, but all I could come up with were somewhat clinical references to cross-dressers (actually, the term used was "transvestite", which I loathe) being in the category of sexually deviant behavior. Boy, did I need to read that ... other than the library sources, the only other references I found were a few outrageous porn magazines about "T.V. Queens", usually with very "delightful" photos of guys in net stockings and leather with sex organs hanging out. Not what I considered positive feedback, and certainly not what I wanted to be associated with. Finding references to sexually deviant behavior and porno drag queens led me to suppress my urges deeper and deeper into my subconscious. If that is what it's all about, I want nothing to do with it. Emotionally I was internally hemorrhaging, but from 1985 to 1988, I only gave in once and hated myself afterward. Then I met Cindy.

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I first met Cindy when I gave a talk on sound engineering to a University of Washington class she was enrolled in. I own a recording studio in Seattle now, and I'm frequently asked to talk to University classes. When Cindy completed the course she was required to do an internship in a professional facility, and she requested my studio. thus, I began spending time with her on a professional basis, and over the course of a year came to know her quite well. I also found myself more and more attracted to her, partly be-

cause she was so easy to talk to and sensitive to my ups and downs. Each time Cindy was in the studio I found myself spending more time working with her, and mainly talking to her. We laughed and shared secrets, had serious discussions about many things, and then went our separate ways at night. Since I hadn't been dating for several years I had grown somewhat shy and couldn't bring myself to ask her for a date.

Then one day we were working on a music score together when I excused myself to use the men's room, only to find it occupied. I returned to the studio, explaining to Cindy that I was a bit uncomfortable, and she suggested using the ladies room. I flippantly remarked that I only did that when I had a dress on, and Cindy laughed with delight and said she would love to see me in a dress. I let it pass at the time, but that night I though about it a great deal. I really liked this person, and in a year of working closely and talking a great deal I sensed there was a bond of trust and caring between us. So I made a decision to ask her out and at the same time tell her about my experience with cross dressing. As I expected, she accepted the date, and the morning of the big day asked what we might be doing that evening. My response was that since she had said she would love to see me in a dress she was going to get her wish. We both had a good laugh about being careful what you wish for, and then I sat down with her and explained my history with cross dressing, starting with the halloween party. She was intrigued and very accepting, and was very much looking forward to that evening. Quite frankly, a more positive response than I could possibly have hoped for, and yet I knew intuitively that she would be accepting. Boy was I nervous that day, since I had never told anybody before and had been deeply in the closet since the halloween party 14 years prior.

Even though I was very nervous, our first date went very well, and we began dating frequently. Over the course of time falling in love was easy and natural for both of us, and we've become totally committed to each other.

I feel my revelation about cross dressing to Cindy was the bridge that allowed true intimate communication to develop, and thus a solid relationship of trust and sharing. We had a good basis for communication already in place, having spent a year working closely and talking often, but quickly grew closer after our first date. After all, what would I want to hide from her after telling her about my cross dressing?

Fortunately for me, Cindy quickly became interested in my hobby. Since she had spent several years involved in New York Theatrical productions, and had been raised in a Mennonite family, she was well versed in costume design and sewing.

She began sewing new outfits for me, better designed and fitted than anything I had, and with her theater background began advising me on better makeup techniques. Before I dated Cindy I didn't do badly, but I was not really satisfied with the results. In a short time Cindy taught me enough proper techniques and skills that my makeup now passes close scrutiny every time, and I find it easy and fun to apply. With better outfits and makeup, and a new hairstyle, we agreed to begin going out once and awhile to small night clubs in the area. We go out regularly now and never have any problems, just lots of fun.

In March of 1989 I discovered Tapestry (Issue #52) while shopping in a lingerie store for Cindy's birthday. What a revelation that was for both of us, because for the first time we knew there were large numbers of cross dressers out there, most of them heterosexual like me. The last great weight of guilt had been lifted.

I subscribed to Tapestry, and from reading the magazine we learned of a cross dressing organization in Seattle called The Emerald City. Cindy and I met the secretary of the group, Janice Van Cleve, at a hotel bar one Sunday, and I was face to face with the first cross dresser I had ever met. We liked Janice and decided to join the group. Since then we've met many group members, been out with them, had some to our home and we've become quite close with a few. They have become special friends of ours, and we look forward to the times we can see them. What began for me 15 years ago as a dark secret has now become an enjoyable social activity, and the foundation of some very special friendships.

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In writing this story I've had reason to reflect .... on the past as well as the present, and I've come to realize there are a few things that perhaps make my situation different from the average cross dresser. For example, in my first experience I was totally dressed for an elegant party, thus I never passed through any of the partial dressing stages most CD's do. I started at the top, as it were, and never had any interest in negligees, garter belts, etc. or anything else not directly associated with the complete look.

My physical condition has presented several problems in my pursuit of my hobby, and overcoming them has been a chal-

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lenge. I'm slender (that's good), but 6'5" (not so good). There are women my height, but they, like me, attract a lot of attention. When going out in public, attracting attention is not what we have in mind. My solution is to act graceful and natural like I belong there, and people react in an accepting way. Whether or not I pass is not the issue .... people are not going to challenge someone who seems to be completely at home.

A second problem for me is the bullet holes in my right leg. Three of them are below my hemline, and to hid them I have to wear flesh colored tights under my pantyhose. This solution does work well though, and is surprisingly comfortable. It does serve to illustrate the lengths we'll go to in order to achieve the desired results.

After the war I had a steady stream of girlfriends, but I was not able to sustain a relationship with any of them because the bitterness of that war rendered me unable to communicate my feelings. Following the halloween party in 1974, I became even more distant due to my secret desire to pursue cross dressing. Although it is common for combat veterans to suffer the inability to sustain a relationship for several years after a war, I feel in my case that even as I matured and got over the war memories, the issue of cross dressing continued to be the barrier to a successful relationship. So I eventually gave up, and had quit dating six years prior to meeting Cindy.

My relationship with Cindy is not totally unique in the world of cross dressers, but it is statistically unusual. By that I mean our trust and open communication, and our sharing and mutual enjoyment of our hobby is not the typical relationship in a cross dresser's family.

Frankly, in years past I doubt if I could have opened up and been honest with Cindy, and the result probably would have been another failed relationship. But due to my past history I knew that if I wanted to ever become truly intimate with someone (and I did want to with Cindy) I had to be honest with her about my feelings and about who and what I was. The fact that I chose to share my secret with her before our first date in turn allowed her to be more open and honest. The invisible barrier that blocks deeply intimate communication had been removed by our honesty with each other, and the result is the first time in either of our lives we have a genuinely intimate relationship.

We do try to keep our hobby in perspective with the other aspects of our life together. I dress perhaps twice a week, and we go out to a club about three times a month, but most importantly we never allow my dressing into our sex life; Cindy appreciates this, and feels lucky to have a masculine love, shopping companion, and a feminine friend who appears a couple evenings a week.

Photography has become a part of the hobby lately, and Cindy has developed into a terrific photographer. We share some clothes and cosmetics, as well as many interests not related to cross dressing. thus Cindy is not overpowered by my dressing, and I don't get burned out by it. Our relationship with our cross dressing friends is similar, in that we've become close to both their feminine and masculine personas, and they with both sides of me. Thus the bonds we all share include **all** aspects of who we are as human beings.

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OPINION:

CROSSDRESSING FROM A CAREER WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

By K.J. Moore

Unlike many wives of cross-dressers, I had no trouble accepting the fact that my husband wears women's clothing whenever he can; that is simply a part of who Leslie is, just like the way he brushes his teeth or combs his hair. My biggest difficulty, as a career woman, is understanding why a man would want to be female in the first place. This may be the end of the 1980's, but despite all the advances which have been made, women are still second-class citizens in the eyes of many men. We get passed over for promotions at work in many of our jobs or receive less pay than a man doing the same work, although employers now are careful to camouflage this discrimination by giving us different job titles. Those of us who attempt to change our jobs often have to go through the indignity of being asked blatantly illegal and discriminating questions about marriage and childbirth plans. If our husbands are employed, many of our bosses look at us as if we do not actually need to work, even though most of us do.

A woman who tries to get a house or apartment also meets discrimination. When I was 25, I looked 19 and was told by a prospective landlord that I could not have the apartment because I would probably change my mind in a couple of weeks and go home to mother. Other single and divorced women, or married women such as military wives who must do their house-hunting alone, may not meet someone who states it so bluntly, but will often find the same attitude.

We have the same need for services as men, but we must guard more against overcharged or just plain cheated then male customers must. A tradesman whom addresses a woman as "little lady" is unlikely to make a sexual pass at that female customer, but he is probably going to speak to her as if she hardly knows how to flush her toilet, let alone repair the washing machine. He belongs in the same club with the mechanic who is completely astounded when his female customer turns out to be a college graduate who cannot only tell him what a carburetor is and what is wrong with it, but can analyze the aerodynamics of the vehicle's body as compared to those of a passenger jet.

As women, we are also more vulnerable to crime, particularly if we are elderly. We must not only be aware of the kind of scams in which people say they will pave a driveway and then apply black paint instead, but are often victims of the more violent crimes. Snatch-and-run property crimes against women are also common. When was the last time the newspapers carried a story about a man's purse being snatched?

While the 1970's and 80's have been times in which sexist language has been attacked, women must still put up with perfect strangers, business acquaintances, husbands of friends or anyone who wishes calling them by such diminutives as "honey", "dear", or "sweetheart", the same terms they hear used with children. Salesmen still ask for "the man of the house" when a woman answers the door, and people who wish to speak to their husband on the telephone ask them for their "better half."

A woman's legal rights, even in a country where "all men are created equal", are not the same as a man's, if she is legally foolish enough to marry. She needs to either consult a lawyer before her marriage or has to have a law degree to make certain she will have rights to any property that she has not purchased in her own name, the right to credit history of her own, or as future legislation will hopefully give her, the right to pay the same amount, and not more, income taxes than the single person with the same income.

If a woman tries to make an impact on her own, as I did when I threatened to sue a mechanic who gave me an estimate on an auto repair and two hours later substantially reduced the price when I got a male friend to bring the car, even other women will look at her as if she is disrupting the natural order of things. If a woman does succeed in making a small dent, as I did when I kept my own name after my marriage, she may find herself looked upon with suspicion by the prominent ladies in town, the ones who are listed in the newspapers as Mrs. John (Ann) Jones, as if their husbands are the sole sources of their worth as a person and as if they do not even have identities of their own.

I agree with anyone that there are positive things about being a woman, but for those of us who spend our working days in a male dominated world, sometimes the positive things look very small next to the handicap femininity gives us.

Why, then, would any man wish to be, or appear to be, female? Do men who cross-dress wish to be treated as a kind of sub-species? Surely, they must have small egos if they crave treatment as inferiors.

In researching cross-dressing and in talking with my cross-dresser husband, I have found a few possible answers.

One answer is that many cross-dressers, particularly those who are lucky enough to have found organizations like Tri-Ess, wear their dresses in private. They are alone or

with groups of others like themselves, and simply never have the opportunity to see how they will be treated by the general public.

Another reason, in my opinion, is that it is the rare cross-dresser indeed who goes into his workplace appearing to be female. I do recommend that any cross-dresser considering staying enfemme all the time apply for a job as a woman and at least go through the job interview that way. Unless he does so on the high powered corporate level in a major city, he may experience a shocking feeling of degradation by the time he finishes the experiment.

Leslie is past 30, but is still the youngest Tri-Ess member in his chapter. many cross-dressers are past 50 years old and some chapters even have special groups for these older "sisters". Perhaps those men see the act of cross-dressing as a way out of the pressures of the male world and into the pampered, June Cleaver world of yesterday's housewife, whose responsibilities appeared to be less stressful than those of their breadwinners. Perhaps the younger men remember their mother this way. To these men, I can only say, "Wake up! Look around!" If June Cleaver and Margaret Anderson were around today, they would throw away their ruffled aprons for "dress-for-success" suits, or end up all stressed out trying to be Superwomen; the ones who work overtime, have dinner on the table and the house clean, raise the children and still sell tickets to the charity raffle. The woman who was "taken care of" by her man has been virtually sacrificed to the economy! Maybe the responsibilities of being the breadwinner are very stressful, but these days, SHE is just as likely to feel the stress as her man is.

It is my opinion that cross-dressers wish to be perceived as women, but should think again about being treated as women. Sorry, fellows, but reality is not that pretty.

I do believe that the cross-dresser who actually does find himself being treated as a woman, however briefly, will come to a better understanding with the woman in his life; particularly if she does spend her days in the man's world of career. This applies whether she is employed in a traditionally male field, as I am, or one usually inhabited by females, such as teaching or nursing, where there are still suspiciously large gaps between the paychecks of the women and those of their male superiors. And unless he is the sort who pays no attention to those around him, that same cross-dresser will probably treat the very next woman he meets with a new kind of respect.

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Personal Experience:

UNE AMERICAINE A PARIS

By: Renee Chinquapin (CA-1372)

I arrived in Paris in early January, lugging my female identity in a suitcase from the Gare De Lyon to the Gare De Nord, arranging my departure for London the following week and producing my mustachioed passport photo to cash a week's worth of travelers checks. Stern, sullen police in bands of three challenged travelers at random for their identity papers; if appearance and papers do not match perfectly, the papers are assumed to be stolen and you're in for big trouble.

My baggage safely stored in a locker, I crossed town by Metro (the subway) tog et the key to the apartment I'd be staying in from my friend's brother, Antoine. His studio lay in one of the seedier Arab neighborhoods, and I felt entirely happy to be dressed as a guy; casbahs have always scared me, as if a trapdoor could open at any moment and POOF, you're in the 9th century! Antoine chided me to be very very cautious: This is not California, watch out!!!

When I finally got settled in my apartment, euphoria filled me as I packed away my trousers and slid into the lingerie and sweater/skirt ensemble I had so carefully chosen back home. A week in Paris... it was really happening! I called up Reverend Douce, who founded and single-handedly runs the only "Center for Sexual Minorities" in France, and made an appointment with him for the next day. Full of both terror and eager anticipation, I feel asleep, wondering if passing in San Jose and Sacramento provided me with carte blanche in the world capital of Vive La Difference!

Well, next day in the Metro I felt about eight feet tall, paranoid, proud of myself, gorgeous, grotesque and thoroughly conspicuous. After a quick puzzled glance, people returned to their own reveries, and I began to garner a bit of confidence. Out on the street again, I promptly lost my way, and was pleasantly surprised how courteous passers-by were when I asked directions. I quickly began to regret the lovely but not overly comfortable high-heeled lined boots I'd brought along.

Reverend Douce is a gay Belgian Baptist pastor, the only openly out-of-the-closet cleric in France, and runs the only clearing house and counselling center for that tiny part of the paraculture that dares to surface in traditionalist France. We Americans tend to imagine the French as risque and permissive, but we forget that the infidelity we see in their movies is merely one of their honored traditions!

Given the affluence, sophistication and apparent worldliness of Paris, Rev. Douce's picture of a totally rigid, orthodox gender dual monolith quite frankly shocked and appalled me. apart from this gentle, unpaid, tremendously overworked little Christian man in his mid-forties, there was no other public figure in France who was openly and proudly there to help homosexuals, bisexuals, lesbians, transvestites and transsexuals. I felt myself in the presence of a latter-day saint. "There is so much to do," he kept saying. I agreed to help him by visiting Mme Roussel, a hospitalized transsexual about to have her operation.

Our interview was cut short by the arrival of the police, there to see about one of the gay runaways Rev. Douce tries to keep out of harm's way. I went upstairs to where they were collating some pamphlets for him and completely blew

Renee C. (CA-1372)

their minds. They had never heard of a heterosexual crossdresser, and it amused and bewildered them. They advised me to purchase and carry a little canister of tear gas, just in case hoodlums attacked me. Thank you, guys, just what I needed to hear to calm my jangling nerves!

Next day I visited Mme. Roussel in her private room where I found her exuberant, almost triumphant to be embarking on her "new life", after twelve years of hormones and electrolysis and five years of protracted struggle with the French legal and medical establishments, whose professed aim is to make it as difficult as possible to alter sex as a test of the transsexual's motivation. As if anyone would consider the change for the fun of it!

She had sacrificed much to be herself; family, friends, hometown, wife, job, and a normal social life. She now lived alone in rural Brittany, almost like Elenor Rigby. Despite all her efforts to manifest physically what she was inside, and a voice operation, she seemed a sad, castrated travesty of a human being. She blithely told me that I'd be lying on that bed soon, gladly embracing immanent surgical transmutation. Fear gripped me, because perhaps she was right... who knows?

Well, after three days of window-shopping, drooling at all the delicious clothes and jewelry, I finally went shopping for real. Apparently, with an American accent, you can get away with murder speaking French, even if you do murder pitch, inflection, style and form! Still, as if football shoulders and bristling cheeks weren't enough to get a salesgirl's attention, A Cage Aux Folles voice brings them like a swarm of flies, morbidly curious and almost malevolently helpful. God forbid, you don't buy the oversized whatever they've fetched from the furthermost rack, you've just proven once again the inferiority of the bizarre "Anglaise". For despite the French approval of all the black aspects of American culture - music, style, jive - they lump all white English speakers together with the despised British, i.e., just short of ludicrous and preposterous. One of Rev. Douce's boys even confided to me that the English don't even like sex! Will the French ever forget Waterloo?

I bought a cute little, I mean, big suit, short skirt and all, but though I'd tried it on, I saw it was just wrong once I got it home. Do I bring it back? D did, but somehow that afternoon my nightmare unexpectedly jumped at me; people started to stare at me in the street, I noticed shopgirls watching me as I window-shopped, conversations stopped as I approached, and I began to feel like an animal in the zoo. No fun! How much self-assurance can one person have? I was running out of it, and felt shaken and confused... how did I look or act different all of a sudden?

Distraught, I phoned my girlfriend back in the States and sure enough, she was frantic with worry, none of my eight cards and letters had arrived yet. Ah yes, the global village is electronic, surely not postal! She reassured me, but I still felt rattled.

Now of course, nothing prevented me from going out as a man and enjoying the wonderful city of paris, as I'd done often enough before. What stopped me from taking the "easy" way out? The other TV in my home town puts it this way, "We are life-gulpers, it's all or nothing for us!"

It took until 4pm the next day to go out, but thankfully all went well, apart from my exit from a fast-food pizzeria, where I had to run the gauntlet of all the waiters and cooks ranged at the door, to judge this phenomenon for themselves...

I began to see some patterns in shopping, for instance, the larger and more lavish a store, the more courtesy, and once a shopgirl was convinced that you really did want to buy something, she would help for as long as it took. I felt so grateful to one that I tipped her! I wonder if she still recalls that odd, lanky, generous Anglaise?

My week in Paris was drawing to a close, so I returned one last time to attend an open meeting at Rev. Douce's Center. I found myself describing to a room full of gay men the state of gay-straight relations in America, and an enlightening discussion on AIDS ensued. It frankly amazed me how fearful these men were lest people should discover their sexual preference. Again, I got a picture loneliness, anonymity and self-doubt. Little by little though they opened up and spoke of their lives, their fears and their hopes, more openly than they had ever dared to do before and I felt quite touched.

The clincher though, was that Ken, the man to my left, was a woman on hormone treatment, eagerly awaiting his operation the following year. He gallantly escorted me home on the Metro, and for the first time I felt comfortable, protected, invisible. Though I loomed over him, his presence made me acceptable, recognizable as just another couple..., but if people knew just what an odd couple we were! I offered my beard for the breasts he kept cinched in with a minimizer and we laughed and became friends.

My advice to anyone crossdressing in Paris is to take along a tall male escort, or at any rate avoid single forays. Tall, striking single women do not walk about at night. If they do, it's perceived as an open invitation. Pay a lot of attention to accessories and hair, no French woman goes out unless she looks perfect, and fashionable to boot. What works in Des Moines is clown's garb in Paris! Expect to be read by anyone paying close attention, and simply love yourself so much that your warmth and kindness thaws people's icy disapproval. After all, to others, we at first seem like Martians. Let us at least bring gentle greeting from the gender frontier!

It's Only Me .....

By: April Daize

(I have written this article at the urging of Jolynne White. The article is primarily targeted at those in our community who have a substance abuse problem.)

I never intended to be what I am today. I always felt there was a difference in me, but I never anticipated that it would be as it is. Crazy as it sometimes seems, I have come to regard what other people see as curses to be in fact blessings. This I find to be amazing.

For a great part of my life I had come to believe that I was mentally ill. I was self destructive, an egomaniac with an inferiority complex. I felt that I had a drinking problem and yet did nothing about it. I knew I could not be an alcoholic as I had a home, a wife, and a job that I went to every day. I never had a DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) ticket, and I liked to dress in women's clothing and drinking permitted me to enjoy that... eliminated my fears and allowing me to fully express the "BIMBO" within.

My wife knew about my drinking problem and also my "HOBBY" of dressing in women's clothing, neither of which she was very happy about.

I started my drinking career as an occasional happy drunk, and proceeded in orderly fashion (although I weaved from side to side a lot) into a periodic drunk (drinking in spurts but not continuously), and then on to the big time of being a daily drinker. I drank for only one reason near the end... not for enjoyment, but to get drunk. Being drunk permitted me to withdraw from a world and the problems I found in it. Drinking offered me a way of not having to deal with it, although only for a short time.

I eventually started to take care of the "I never's"; things like "I never" lost a day from work because of it. Or, "I never" had a car accident or a DWI. Or, "I never" abused my wife or my kids. Or, "I never" tried to commit suicide.

Knowing all this was happening and suspecting I had a problem, I did nothing about it. I continued to deny it to everyone around me and (now I know) even to myself. It was not until October 1986 that I gave up my attempts of controlling my drinking and joined a recovery group. I had always been a loner. I did not join groups... I was an entity unto myself. (My massive ego at work.)

The first meeting I attended was probably the first positive thing I had done for myself in years. It was also the most frightening thing I had ever done without having fortified myself with a drink. I entered into a room with 20 to 30 people who were all talking and joking, and was immediately welcomed by several people.

The feeling of love and caring was so thick in the room you could have spread it on bread. I somehow knew at that point that I was in the right place, where I needed to be. I sat and I listened as people announced their names and added "... and I am an alcoholic." This went from person to person until it reached the chair where I was sitting and although I hesitated, I found myself saying, "... and I am an alcoholic!" The funny part of it was, that was the first time I had actually admitted I was "one of them" .. and I said it out loud, and meant it.

That meeting and the others to follow did not change my life, but give me a life.

It was in March of last year that I went into therapy because of my gender "situation". I was desperately looking for some understanding of my desires to crossdress... I wanted the therapist to tell me some way that I could deal with my problem. I wanted to hear her say, "You are not a transvestite and all these problems will disappear."

It did not quite work the way I wanted it to... the conclusion was that I was not a transvestite. In actuality I was a transsexual, so I guess in a twisted way I got what I wanted.

I must admit that I had a very difficult time in handling that fact. I agonized with it for almost a week, with thought imaginable. What can I do? How can I make a living? Should I leave my wife? What will my parents say? What will become of me?

From my recovery program I knew that my danger signs were showing... I talked to my sponsor (a person who has more sobriety and acts as a guide and support) and told him what was bothering me and I was concerned about my sobriety remaining intact. He told me to come over to his house and talk it through.

He and his wife (who is also in the program and one of my dearest friends) discussed it with me at length. They used the program. They asked program questions like, "Can you get rid of it?" "What can you do about it right now?" "If you can't get rid of it (short of a lobotomy) and you have to live with it, what should you do?"

I could not believe it. Here I was sitting here screaming out in pain, and these people were giving me Program dribble.... how could they expect anything that simple to work? And yet, I sat there realizing that it already had worked. I was sober, I was dealing with life as I must because I ACCEPTED the fact that I was an alcoholic and went forward with my life with that fact in mind. I had no choice, so I had to ACCEPT it.

The outcome of our discussion was my acceptance of my transsexualism. Their love, support, and acceptance of me made that possible.

Acceptance is a key. A key that opens doors yet unimagined to vistas of which I never dreamed. And I do it ONE DAY AT A TIME.

In the beginning I never thought that I would ever say it, but I can today...

"Hi! I'm April, a grateful alcoholic!"

- END -

Opinion:

What's in a Label?

By: Janice Van Cleve

Are you a transvestite or a transsexual? How many times have people asked you this question, and haven't you asked yourself, too? But what does it matter what label you wear?

Actually it matters quite a lot. Labels are powerful symbols, after all. Just by speaking their name, we invoke the whole stereotype they represent. Remember what a difference it made when you finally chose a femme name? It seemed to crystallize your new identity, didn't it? A good label, appropriately applied, can be a real boost to your self esteem. Labels are also necessary, for without attempting to classify the millions of data inputs our brain receives daily, we would be lost. We must group the data into larger patterns in order to use it. Labels help us make sense of the world around us.

We all know, of course, that labels can be dangerous if misused. Misapplication, incorrect definitions or groupings of data (i.e. - if you cross-dress you must be gay, or my personal favorite, if you know the Bible you must be Christian), and as cruel weapons in name-calling. There is another danger to beware of, and that is "justification".

Some people feel uncomfortable without a label. Now if they choose a label to expand their social horizon or for some other practical gain, no problem. We see people in all stages of gender and social role exploration who feel internal or external pressure to adopt either the "transsexual" or "transvestite" label. Then they feel obligated to try to live up to everything included in that label's stereotype, whether or not everything in that stereotype really expresses themselves. In fact they may smother their internal reality to conform to the label! This is foolishness. The label was created for them, not them for the label, right? Did they give up a false front in the straight world only to take on another in the transgendered world?

The feminist movement fell into this trap. Remember how it was "politically incorrect" to wear a dress or a bra - only pants would do? Certain phrases or words were taboo, and everyone had to be pro-abortion regardless of our own personal moral beliefs. To be "truly feminist" you had to become a robot as defined by Gloria Steinem or Bella Abzug (and even they disagreed on what was "politically correct"!). There are people in our community who believe they have the credentials to determine what is a "true transvestite" and a "true transsexual". From there it's an easy step to imagine themselves capable of judging the rest of us and deciding who is "politically correct" and who is not.

We do not have to let these people push us around. There are lots of transsexuals who chose not to have surgery, and there are lots of transvestites who do not own a negligee. Should they be forced to conform or risk being considered "incorrect" by their snobby peers? Should they feel less whole, less genuine, less justified, because they do not fulfill the "requirements" of the label? heavens, no! You should find yourself first and then, if you need a label, find one that fits reasonably well. Your justification comes from within yourself. You do not need a label to BE somebody; you already ARE somebody - a unique and wonderful creation with a purpose and destiny only you can fill.

There are many definitions of transvestite and transsexual but they differ mostly in perspective rather than in substance. The majority of us find we do fit tolerably well under either the TV or TS label with only a few little personal variations that display our individuality without discrediting the label. Those that do not fit under either of these labels completely often invent a new label or devise a variation of TV or TS that fits them. Great! You should take command of the labels, instead of letting them command you.

.....tomorrow I think I will identify as a can of chicken soup. It may not be politically correct, but it nourishes.

(Our thanks to Robin Esch for sharing this lovely tribute with us. -ED)

The Caged Bird

By: Linda Ackerman

I bought a beautiful bird in a pet store the other day.
It's a Cherry-head Conure, bright green, with a read head.
It stands about a foot tall, and sits in a beautiful gold cage, watching the world go by, and crying for attention from time to time.

I asked the pet store owner whether the bird was a male or a female.
She said she didn't know, that you can't tell with this kind of bird, unless you perform a surgical procedure.
Did I want to know that bad?
No, I decided. But it disturbed me, not knowing.

Was it a "he" or a "she"? How do I name it?
How do I refer to it, "him" or "her"?
How do I relate to it?

I noticed I related differently to the bird, depending upon how I referred to it. If I said "he", it was because in that moment I saw him as being masculine, strong, and regal. If I said "she", it was because in that moment I saw her as being feminine, cute and sweet.

After awhile I adjusted to owning an androgenous bird.
I even kind of liked it.

I have a good friend, Robin.
Robin is very much like my Cherry-head Conure.
Robin is masculine, and strong and regal.
Robin is feminine, and cute and sweet.

Robin is a man, and ...
Robin is a woman.

Robin is androgenous.

When I first met Robin, I put her in a cage. When she was safely locked up behind my judgments, and fears, and curiosity, I could stare at her from a distance and not get too close, ... or too threatened. The cage kept us safe, but separate.

But Robin has spent too many years in a cage. In an impulsive moment, I opened the door to the cage, and within moments, Robin flew out. Her spirit filled the room, and suddenly, I didn't need the cage anymore, and neither did she.

I stopped needing Robin to be either a man or a woman. Robin's spirit is androgenous, and I cried for the spirit that had been locked up for so long in man-made cages.. cages constructed by fellow human beings who were frightened by their own bisexuality.. cages erected by fellow souls who needed to put Robin behind a cage, so they could feel safe.

I unlocked the cage of my Cherry-head Conure tonight, and within moments, the bird was gliding effortlessly around the room, filling the room with its spirit, relishing its newly discovered freedom. Now I can't help but wonder.. if I catch the bird, and return it to its cage, ... is that for my benefit, or the bird's?

Robin can return to her cage too. sometimes she goes there willingly. Most of the time she would rather fly free. But, other people need her to be locked up, so she complies, and returns to the cage, so that they will feel safe.

But it's getting harder and harder for Robin to return to the cage, even when people try to put her in it. It used to feel comfortable, like home even. Now it feels like a prison, and her spirit feels suffocated within the confines of the cage.

Robin is discovering that when she removes the cage, and allows her spirit to spread throughout the room, other people's need for the cage seems to disappear. In fact, there was never any real need for the cage in the first place.

The Cherry-head Conure sits contentedly perched upon its cage, relishing its freedom.

I haven't named my bird yet.

I think I will call him or her 'Robin'.

.....A nice androgenous name.

Opinion:

LABELS OR ALLIANCE... A TIME TO DECIDE

By: Catherine L. Andrews (OH-1770)

At first glance we are all quite the same. In bras an panties, heels and hose, we spend a great deal of time on our hair and makeup. We dress for the specific occasion at hand and blend nicely into society for our ventures into the public. As we mature, we learn to pass easily and shrug off those times we are "read" as being less than what we appear. Our exact numbers are not known but estimates run into the millions. While some of us have never been out of the house, others travel extensively and enjoy social events all over the country. In organized clubs with scheduled events or just a day of shopping and dinner at a nice restaurant, we enjoy being women.

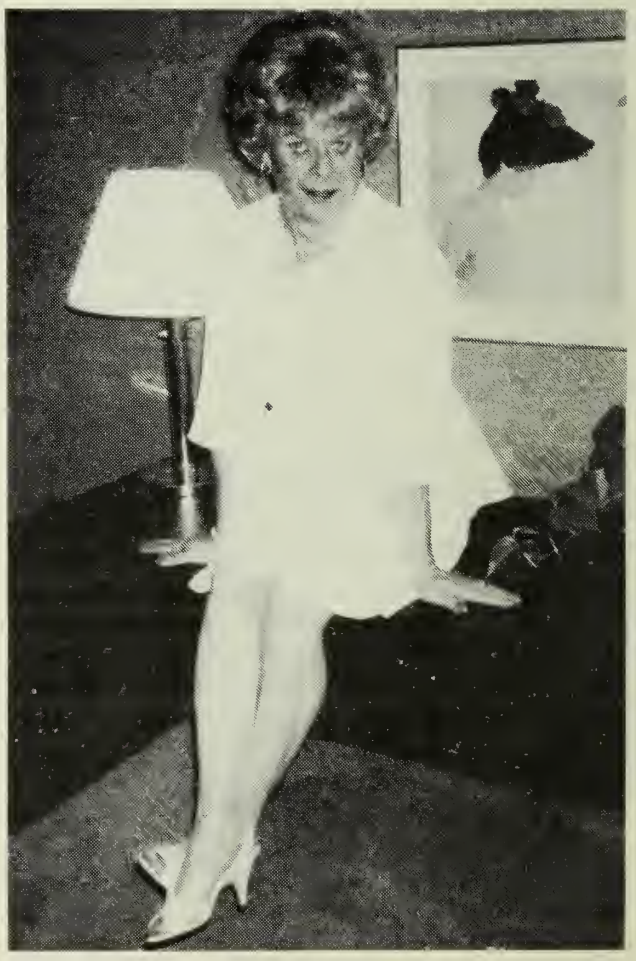
It is with this thought in mine that I am becoming uncomfortable with segregation I see taking place in our community. The "heterosexual" crossdressers vs. the "open" crossdressers vs. the pre-op and post-op "transsexuals" vs. the collective group of "others" will slowly destroy our community from within!

I number among my personal friends members of each group listed above and I WILL NOT turn my back on any of them due to some preconceived notion as to what constitutes a crossdresser! To label ourselves will continue to fragment our efforts to help one another accept ourselves for who we are. I would live to offer an example - the Gay/Lesbian/Crossdressing Community in Pittsburgh. TransPitt and its President, Sheila Kirk, have forged an alliance among the three groups. Personal opinions and animosities are set aside for the good of all concerned.

I was first introduced to the Pittsburgh community when I was invited to attend the Lambda Ball last year. Several hundred members of the Pittsburgh alliance gathered in an exclusive high class downtown hotel for an evening of dining, dancing, and entertainment. The proceeds of the event support the alliance. I arrived on Friday afternoon and accepted Sheila's invitation to dinner and a mini tour of Pittsburgh. Arriving at a local restaurant, we entered to find the local community represented along with Kay Gould who "just happened" to be in the neighborhood. Conversations over drinks were silly and serious expressing good feelings over past experiences as well as anger. I was accepted for "who" I was and not once was there any mention of "what" I was. It is important to note that in this large group no one was putting labels on anyone. We were one group of people enjoying an evening together. This acceptance of everyone carried on throughout the evening as we moved on to a huge private club called 'Travelers'. 'Travelers' was a place where all were accepted for who they were. Not once was anyone labeled as being anything but a person. The elegance of the Lambda Ball on Saturday night is difficult to describe. Formal wear was the order of the day. Fantastic gowns and tuxedos made the Ball a premier event. The hotel staff catered to our every wish; the food was excellent; the social relationships were wonderful! (In case you have ever been concerned, let me tell you...dancing backwards and in high heels takes five seconds to adjust to, and a lifetime to enjoy!)

I bring all of this to your attention at this time as there will soon be a unique opportunity for all of us to learn how it should be done within our community. The 'Be All You Want To Be' weekend will be held in Pittsburgh in June 1990. TransPitt will be your hostess, and the event will offer the unique experiences of Pittsburgh.

Whether you wear pantyhose or garter belts is unimportant, and who or what you sleep with is your business. What is important is to learn to accept ourselves for who we are and to work together to help each other enjoy life.



Catherine Lynn Andrews

Because She's My Sister, That's Why!
or
"Big Ed" Doesn't Wear A Dress!

By: Catherine Lynn Andrews (OH-1770)

Do you secretly envy the girls who are doing so much to help our community gain the acceptance we all deserve? How many times have you said to yourself, "I wish I could do something to help!"? Some time ago, a girl just like you did something to help you and she didn't know you at the time. I know she did because you are reading this copy of the TAPESTRY. Let's face it Honey, the TAPESTRY isn't that easy to find when you don't know it is out there for you. You don't see a TAPESTRY "stamp" on the sheet from Big Ed What's-His-Name (and the winner of the ten million dollars is some guy from Chicago who looks like my sister and sounds a lot like my brother!). You don't find the TAPESTRY at the grocery check-out counter (Space aliens made me wear a dress but put my bra on backwards...and it FIT!).

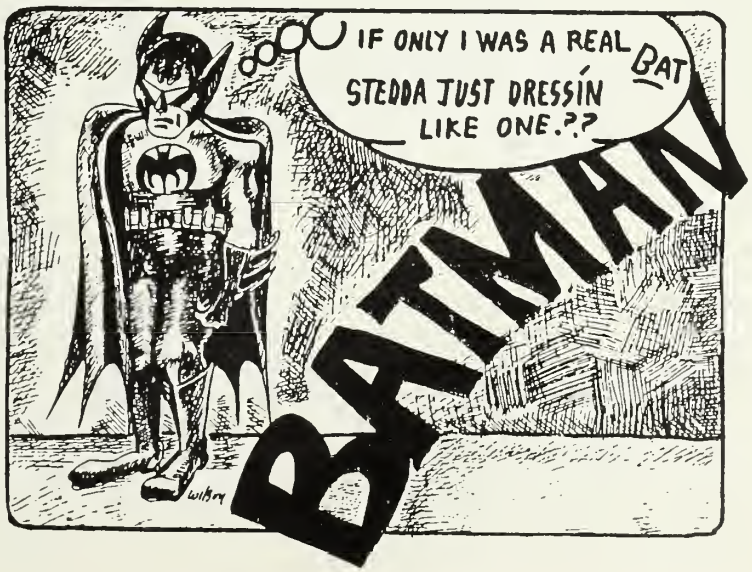
I hear you out there... "Cathy, I'd love to help but what can I do in my position? I have to be concerned about...well, you know." Yes, I know, but if that is all that is holding you back girl, listen up because I have a way for you to get involved and be a part of the action. There is no risk to you and only the I.F.G.E. will know what you have done. (It will be like having an accident while wearing dark blue slacks... you get a warm feeling and no-one will notice.)

First things first, go and get an envelope and a stamp. I'll wait right here..... makes it easier to hook if I wear it backwards... and dancing would be more interesting for him..... good, you're back. Now, address the envelope to the I.F.G.E. and include a note asking for some brochures. You can make copies someplace if you need more. Now, before you seal the envelope, slip in a hundred dollar bill.... so alright, make it five or whatever you can spare at the moment. Anyway, send it off and while you wait for the return mail, use the time to look up a few addresses in your town. For example: The director of your local hospital(s), the suicide prevention hot-line, the community service editor of your newspaper, the president of your local AMA chapter (no Honey, "doctors" not "motorcycles"), and sociology and psychology Departments of your city's colleges and universities. There are others you might think of... be creative. Now, address an envelope to each activity on your list and put the I.F.G.E. return address in the upper left corner (Sheila... "left hand" dear, not the one you put eyeliner on with).

"So, just what have I accomplished by all this playing Post Office," you ask? What have you done? Why you have just let your entire helping community know all about the services available for gender conflicted people and where to go for more information. You provided all this with a local postmark that says, "I'm close by, a member of this community, and I care!" There's more... can you imagine the impact on these agencies if they were to receive lots of the same mail from their local area? It often times takes "numbers" for some people to pay attention. This is your chance to be a part of the revolution! This may be your one chance to tell the world, "I'd rather be wearing a DRESS!"

What five dollars? Oh, THAT five dollars! (I almost forgot!) It takes money to keep the I.F.G.E. offices running... money for office materials, money for transportation, money for the phone bill and heat and lights. A half-dozen people are working for free to free all of us. After all these expenses, there is nothing left over to keep the old I.F.G.E. car running. (Your mother would not let you date a boy who drove a car in this bad a condition!) Traveling to speaking engagements, getting the TAPESTRY to the printers, running to the post office, and getting our leaders to meetings and conventions around the country has worn the old thing out (the car, not Yvonne). If we all throw five dollars (more would be gratefully appreciated) into the pot, more reliable and safe transportation can be purchased.

I wanted to illustrate just how desperate the need had become and could not find the right words until Merissa told me of the pathetic sight she had witnessed just the other day. It seems the old car just would not start and Merissa watched out the window as Yvonne started for home on her Menstrual cycle followed by Dan on his Honda....



Thanks to Nancy Wilson, 'Neutral Corner'

RELIGION

(The following two articles by Kyelle Blake were edited from the "Rosebuds" Vol III No 5 & No 6, published by the Tiffany Club, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888.)

Article #1

IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

By: Kyelle Blake

Our lives are energized and propelled by our struggle with the tensions of opposite poles all around us and in us. Eastern religion expresses this tension of opposites with the symbols of Yin and Yang. The concepts of "mind over matter" or "spirit over body" are Western expressions (and often distortions of life's creativity born from the tension of opposite poles.

The TV/TS community is well aware of the tension. In our community we experience the tension between masculine and feminine. We feel the tension and live with the discomfort. We seek our personal peace in some resolution of those two poles. For some the peace is called "integration." For some it is in androgyny. For others the peace is found in a disassociation with the masculine and a full identification with the feminine. For some the peace is found in a purge.

As we struggle with this tension, we seek a cure to our discomfort. In this search for a cure, we are like caged birds who seek escape from our cages not realizing that we will still be imprisoned in an enclosed room. There is a difference between curing and healing. The healing comes when we look beyond our cages to see the polarities that occupy the room and the space beyond the room. The healing comes in transcending the cage of the masculine/feminine duality and giving ourselves to the creative tension of the larger polarities.

It's tough and scary to move out of the cage. Certainly it's much safer to stay in the cage, keep the door shut, sit on one's perch, and gaze in the mirror while pruning our feathers. A cure can be found in the cage, but not healing. The soul is healed as it flies from the cage and wrestles with the larger fields of tension. The soul is lost when it stays in the cage insensitive to the larger fields of tension all around and even inside it. Being lost is not a matter of being in an unfamiliar place. Those who are lost are those who stay all too long in the all too familiar place.

There are many transcendent polarities to which our wings will take us if we open our eyes to them by looking beyond the mirrors of our cages. One central polarity whose tension field must be passed by every soaring soul is that of the duality of emptiness/space. We all operate daily in the tension and energy of our emptiness. We strive to fill our emptiness with gossip and conversation, companions and noise, distractions and preoccupations. So much of all human activity is an avoidance of our emptiness of soul. We are fearful of being alone, and those of us who have learned about cross-dressing can easily fill the acute emptiness of loneliness with our obsessions and compulsions related to dressing.

Emptiness has a highly charged energy field to which people are reacting everyday in avoidance, denial and hiding. Every energy field has an opposite with which it exists in a state of tension. As long as the soul remains in a purely reactive relationship to only one pole, it will never know the healing and creativity of moving through the tension field toward the opposite pole.

The opposite of emptiness is not fullness. The healing and wholeness to which our emptiness calls us is found in the space and regions of solitude within us. Inside use we can find the healing space that removes us from our emptiness and connects us with our God. In the solitude of soul, one can find a space where strengths and weaknesses no longer matter. In one's inner space, the outer clothes no longer make any difference. In the inner space, the division between masculine and feminine is transcended. In solitude the noise of the world is hushed by the calm of eternal and original quiet. In solitude we pass through and overcome the emptiness of loneliness by finding our true connectedness with all other persons in the Imageo Dei in each of us. Life's emptiness draws from us and reduces us. Spiritual solitude nourishes us and strengthens our wings for further flight.

The arms of emptiness pervade the remotest corners of our cages. We beat our wings featherless against our bars to escape. We sense the emptiness in our loneliness and seek a cure in connectedness with others. Living in the TV/TS cage, we perceive our connectedness in terms of masculinity and femininity. We deceive ourselves into thinking that our cure is in our being either a man or a woman or some

combination of both to others. But, our efforts leave us perpetually anxious. The Latin word for anxious is angustia which also means narrowness. Our efforts to find peace in a cure are too narrow. A healing, not a cure, awaits us outside our cages. The overcoming of the emptiness and the basis of our connectedness with others is not found in some resolution of the masculine/feminine polarity within us. Living out of the quiet strength of the soul's solitude and knowing that this solitude, and nothing else, is what connects us with God and with all others who are also created in God's image is our healing and our escape from the cage.

- END -

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Article #2

"AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOODWILL..."

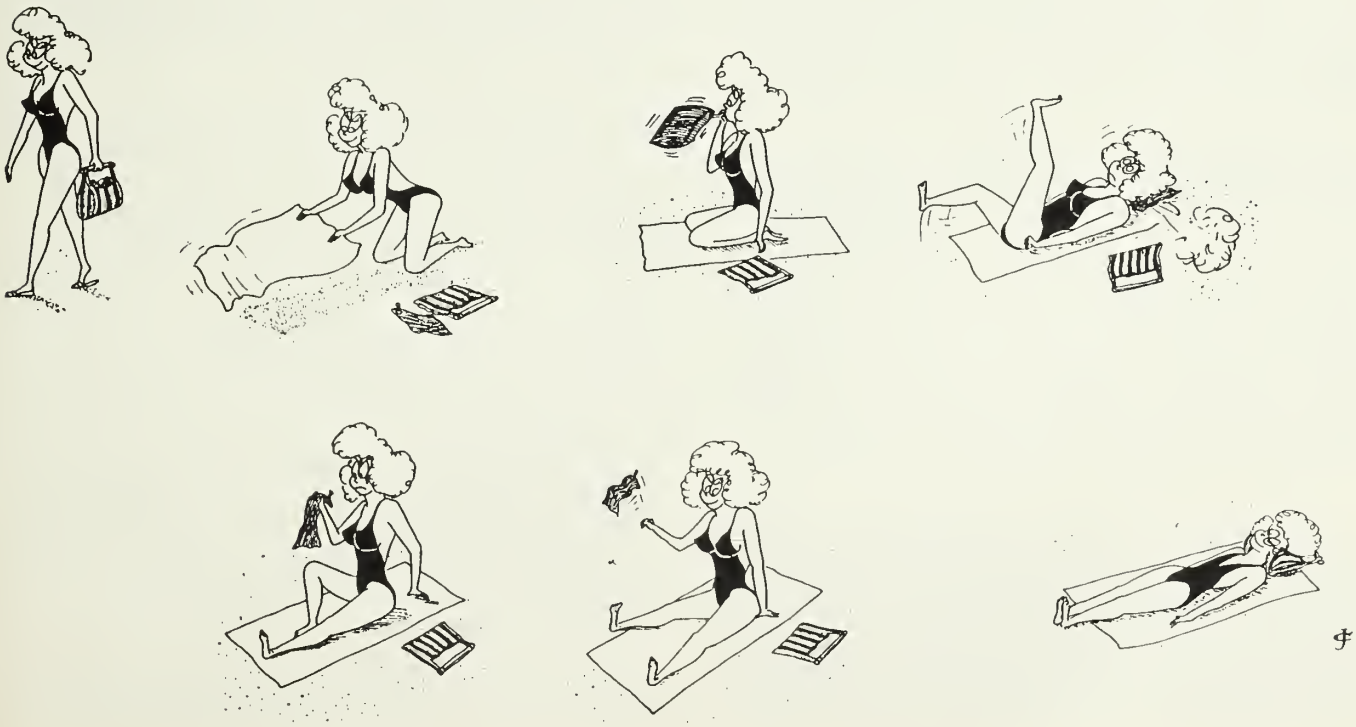
By: Kyelle Blake

Peace was the promise of Heaven to Earth in a time gone by. But what does that have to do with me? Perhaps someday the promise will come true. Nations might see the light and beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks and all warfare shall cease. How glorious that would be. But even if that promise came true and peace should reign on earth, would my peace pass by me? The warfare reigns within me in the raging battles of gender conflict. Does the promise of peace have anything to do with that inner battlefield? Peace, perfect peace, where is my peace?

I have searched for my peace in "exploring my femininity." Oh, how I have explored my femininity - the wonders of wigs, the swirl of skirts. From P-town to Montreal I have sought my peace in my femininity. But in that place I could not find peace for there it was not to be found. Failing in that effort, I looked elsewhere. I reasoned it all out, using the soundest principles of logic. Within me are heavy-duty doses of masculinity and femininity. I have experienced much conflict between those two poles. Ah-ha! the light dawns over Marblehead! Peace must be in the integration of those two opposite poles. How logical, how deceiving. Moving to outflank my foe, I switched my search for peace to the arena of integration. This switch resulted in a defeat even more resounding than when I searched for peace in my femininity. Peace, perfect peace, where is my peace?

The one who is declared as the Prince of Peace promised, "My peace give I unto you, not as the world gives, give I..." Oh my, this sounds really good! Now I must be getting someplace. Perhaps, I need a conversion and then I'll find my peace. All I have to do is push the right button, say the right prayers, sing the right songs, believe the right things and presto magic, I'll be in the recipient of this warm fuzzy feeling. I will have found my peace.

Well, I tried that trick too. Guess what? It didn't work, either. The fuzzy feeling quickly passed and the ragings came right back. Let's try some logic again here. Maybe peace isn't a fuzzy feeling. Maybe pease is not to be found out there, outside myself, in a concept (femininity), nor in an idea (integration), nor in a person (Jesus), nor in a place (P-



town), nor in a behavior (crossdressing), nor in an illusion (Kyelle). But if peace is not in these places, where in blazes can it be found?

Since this article is a stab at making a contribution to all the profound documents on religion occasionally discovered in TV/TS publications, allow me to return to the Prince of Peace. Now there was a guy who was at peace with himself, at ease in any situation. He was at peace in the presence of people of the "lowest estate". Among his companions were prostitutes, tax collectors, samaritans and lepers, and all the down-and-outs and objects of society's scorn. Who knows, perhaps among his friends were a few cross-dressed male prostitutes. Judging by the rest of the company that he kept, I doubt that it would have hardly made a difference to him! He was at ease with people of the "highest estate". Rich rulers, Nicodemus, Herod, Pilate and many other powerful folk couldn't make him drop his composure. he took a nap while his boat was sinking. Dangling from a cross, he said, "Forgive them." Now there is a guy at peace with himself. Behold the Prince of Peace!

His kind of peace has to be a little more than a warm fuzzy feeling. But what is it? Why do such essential things have to be veiled in so much mystery? he promised his peace at the end of his life. he lived that peace from the beginning of his life. Engaging in a closer look, let us let his peace speak to us.

A prelude to Jesus' work was his forty days in the wilderness. There, according to all reports, he came face to face with the devil. This has the makings of a mighty awesome encounter. The two rulers of the universe, the King of Kings and the Prince of Darkness, spent a few moments eyeball to eyeball. The universe can only stand so many of these encounters! I don't know about you, but with these two universal giants in the same room, I'd expect the sparks to fly. But read closer the accounts in Matthew and Luke.

The sparks did not fly! Yes, indeed, the devil was most hostile towards Jesus. He was a master at using the world's most common forms of hostility. He tried to use Jesus, to manipulate Jesus, and to get Jesus under his control. You see, the devil is not all that different from all of us. We are trying to do those things to others every day. The devil, like all hostile people, refused to affirm or recognize anybody else's boundaries. he figured that everyone, including Jesus, fell inside his boundaries. You have to give the devil credit where credit is due. He has a heck of an ego!

In response to this attack from his arch enemy, Jesus did not offer hostility for hostility. We would have; but he did not. he did not respond by punching the devil in the nose, although the devil left the field a bit bloodied. jesus did not respond by going on the defensive, another hostile move, although his turf remained securely defended. Jesus did not try to win the devil over to his side nor did he attempt to control the devil's will or actions. All of the above moves are hostile in nature. Jesus did none of these, neither did he lie down and let the devil use him for a doormat.

If Jesus did none of the above, what did he do? What recourse could be left? Those questions are best answered in terms of **who Jesus was**, not in terms of **what he did**. Read again the temptation accounts. There you will find a man at peace with himself and with his God even in the presence of the devil. Out of the deep inner peace within him, Jesus responded to the devil with hospitality, not hostility. Yes, HOSPITALITY!

We think of hospitality as a set of outer actions such as telling folks "to have a nice day" and remembering to be polite. The Biblical understanding of hospitality runs much deeper. In the presence of the devil, we might not be inclined to be either polite or hospitable. But Jesus was hospitable. he reached into the deep hospitable peace of his soul. From the peace of his inner center, he called forth and offered the devil a hospitality that allowed the devil to be the devil.

Jesus clearly saw that the devil had his boundaries and that he had his own. Hostility is an attack on boundaries. Hospitality is a recognition of boundaries. Clearly recognizing his and the devil's boundaries, Jesus' response to the devil was to simply and clearly state, "I know what my boundaries are, these are what they are, you cannot cross them." The response to the devil carried the strength of a man at peace with himself and was extremely hospitable. That response has no place in it for the hostility of going on the defensive for Jesus' own boundaries nor the hostility of going on the attack of the devil's boundaries. if Jesus had done either of these two thing, he would have been playing right into the devil's hand by playing the devil's own game. By playing his own game, the game of peace-filled hospitality, Jesus stopped the devil in his tracks and turned him on his tail.

The hospitality that Jesus presented to the devil in the wilderness was carried with him throughout his life. His hospitality allowed others the space and place to be who God calls them to be. His hospitality does not say to another, "This is my god and for us to be friends, my god must be your god." His hospitality does not say, "These are my beliefs and in order for us to be under the same roof, my beliefs must become your beliefs." His hospitality does not say, "This is my morality and for us to get along, my morality must be your morality." His hospitality does not say, "This is my sexuality and for me to accept and love you, your sexuality must be the same as mine." His hospitality offers others the freedom of space and place to maintain the boundaries of personhood that God has given to them. Even the devil has boundaries. They are God-given and Jesus knew that. This hospitality is Jesus' peace.

if Jesus could be hospitable to the devil, why can't I be hospitable to myself? Can my femme side possibly have more power over me than the devil had over jesus? Yes, she

can, if I greet her with hostility and not with hospitality. That hospitality comes from a heart that is at peace with God, itself and others.

"On earth, peace, goodwill to all..." sang the angels at Jesus' birth. "My peace I give to you, not as the world gives, give I..." said Jesus before he left the world. That peace is not to be found in our masculinity nor in our femininity. That peace is not to be found in androgyny nor in the integration of the two sides. That peace is not to be found in the denial nor in the acceptance of our sexuality - although acceptance is beginning to be on the right track. That peace is found in the soul, which has opened itself in hospitality to the presence and the power of God, its creator.

"May there be peace on earth, may it begin with me."

Biblical References

In order of use in the above: Luke 2:14; Isaiah 2:4, 9:6; John 14:27, 8:3-11; Matthew 9:10, 21:31; Mark 2:15ff; John 4:7ff; mark 14:3; Luke 18:18; John 3:1ff; Luke 23:8ff; Matthew 8:23ff; Luke 23:34; Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 2:14; and John 14:27.

An Open Letter To Distressed Wives of Crossdressers

From: Vanessa Sims (MN-1168)

You're a woman who's married to a man that you love very much. You may even have had children together, and you work hard to make your marriage a good one. Then, one day, the roof falls in -- you find out that he wants to wear women's clothes. What now?

If you're like most wives who've been faced with this issue, several things go through your mind. Is he gay? Is he bisexual? Does he want to change his sex? Is he a pervert of some kind? Is he mentally deranged? Is this thing something he inherited? The list goes on and on, but I think you get the idea.

You, as a woman, are now in a position to make an important decision. As I see it, there are three main options open to you:

1. You can say, unequivocally, that "I can't deal with this. I'm leaving." This will, of course, end the crossdressing problem (along with your marriage).

2. You can say "I love him, but I can't see why I should have to put up with him wearing a dress. I'll stay with him, but he has to promise not to crossdress anymore." You can say that, but this approach will never work. Your husband can no more repress his ongoing feminine needs than he can stop breathing. You're only kidding yourself if you think you can keep him away from crossdressing forever (and have a happy, healthy husband in the process).

3. You can take the most intelligent and realistic approach and say "I'm scared, I'm confused, and I'm worried--but I love my husband. Let's talk until we can work something out. Let's educate ourselves about this and maybe get some counseling, but let's stay together because we love each other."

I can speak with some authority on this subject because I'm a married, heterosexual crossdresser who has lived through the experience of trying to repress my crossdressing, finally telling my wife, and then dealing with the ramifications this disclosure caused. It was, without a doubt, the most difficult procedure I've ever been through but it was, in the long run, very much worth it.

My wife was like you. She was terrified that someone would find out, angry because I kept my "secret" hidden for several years, confused by all the misinformation society had given her about crossdressers, and very fearful for herself, her husband, and her marriage. If she could have "cured" me from my need to dress, she most certainly would have.

However, God was in the process of teaching us some invaluable lessons. We both needed to learn patience, tolerance, and acceptance of others on an unconditional basis, and my crossdressing was the method God chose to use. We talked, we read, we fought, we cried, we prayed, we did everything we could think of to deal with the issue.

Finally, we found a counselor who was a tremendous help to both of us. She helped us realize that in order to live together as a couple we first had to accept ourselves and then each other as unique, special individuals. We read the "Tapestry" and Dr. Virginia Prince's book "The Transvestite and His Wife". We began to realize that it didn't help to fight, and separation or divorce wasn't the answer, so we began to learn to flow, to compromise, and - finally - to share the joys of our femininity together.

Today, we are happier (as individuals and as a couple) than we've ever been in our lives. My wife still has the man she married, and now she has a new lady friend as well - and we have wonderful, marvelous times together.

The thing we have learned is this: If you truly love each other and are willing to do whatever it takes to work it out, you can make it. Your marriage can not only survive, it can reach new levels of trust, honesty, understanding, acceptance, and love.

I know that each couple is different, and so is each couple's situation. Different compromises are necessary, depending on your circumstances and the people involved. It may take months, or even years - but, at least in our case, true love overcame every obstacle. Don't think it's easy. It's not. But then, nothing worthwhile ever comes easy.

We both can honestly say that we are healthier, stronger, happier, and better people for having confronted my need to crossdress. God has blessed us greatly, and our prayer for you is that you would love your husband enough to look past the clothes and makeup and see a human being who is worthy of your respect and your love. Please don't condemn him for needing to crossdress. He never asked for it any more than you did. There are all kinds of theories as to why men need to crossdress. Find out about them; read, educate yourself. Know what's going on here, then search your heart and see if you can't learn to be a better person than you already are. Love your husband unconditionally. I promise you he'll be eternally grateful for your acceptance, and your relationship will be immensely richer for your having done so.

Our heart goes out to you, and you are in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless you as you wrestle with your fears and concerns. Remember, in marriage and in life, the key is love - pure, unconditional, no-strings-attached love. It's the way to beat any obstacle. I know. I've been there. My wife's been there, too. We'd be extremely happy to see you get there, as well. We wish you every good and beautiful thing life has to offer, and believe it or not your husband's crossdressing can be one of those good and beautiful things. Try it -- if you'll keep your fears and prejudices out of the way so love can do it's work, you'll be surprised at how magnificent and joyful your life can turn out to be.

- END -

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Psychology:

(The following article was edited from a speech concerning relationships delivered by Dr. Peo at Fantasia Fair. Roger Peo is a Board Certified sexologist and president of 'Androgyny Unlimited'. If you have subjects you would like Roger to write about or question you want answered privately, you may write to him at: P.O. Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 126021 914-462-7455. All communications are confidential.)

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

By: Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

You are here because you wanted to know about the woman in your life. What I want to do in the next few minutes is to explore a side of women that may not be familiar to you. You may have come to this seminar looking for some magic. I have to disillusion you at the very start. There is no magic. What I can offer you are some insights about women, especially as they relate to the cross-dressing of their partner. These perspectives may help you better understand a woman who is important to you. While some of what I will say can also apply to transsexuals who are in a relationship, most of the time their situation is quite different.

What are clothes anyway? In our society they serve many functions aside from the obvious one of protecting the wearer from the elements. First and foremost, they usually identify the wearer as a member of one gender or the other. In our society, this is very important, for nearly everything we do with another person is directly or indirectly mediated by their gender. Cross-dressing clouds the normal messages that another person receives from your clothing, creating uncertainty. This uncertainty influences how this other person relates to you, the cross-dresser. A casual acquaintance may have few problems with it but for an intimate relationship, cross-dressing creates many problems. In my experience I know of no other behavior that influences so many different aspects of a relationship between a man and a woman.

We used to think that the distinctions between men and women were primarily ones of biology. Now we are coming to find that there are many other differences. A notable contrast is the way in which each gender views relationships. Whether this is biologically or socially determined is really not important today. What is significant is that these distinctions do exist. Because they do, understanding them is crucial to establishing and maintaining an intimate relationship with a woman. There is an old saying that men give love to get sex and women give sex to get love. Much truth is wrapped up in this observation. Many women view relationships as central to their life. Women often work much harder than men at keeping and maintaining a relationship. They may believe that whatever happens to their partner is a reflection on them. Also, they may feel that they have to help their partner overcome any obstacles he faces, even at the expense of not having their own needs met.

What does this mean to you? It means that if you become involved with a woman and she with you, then your need to cross-dress has the potential for disrupting your relationship. If she loves you, she can be easily hurt by your need to cross-dress and yet may be unwilling or unable to tell you. As I will elaborate, there are ways for you to minimize these problems. Keep in mind that if she had her choice, she would probably prefer that you did not cross-dress.

From my experience, the woman who can best learn to cope with your need to cross-dress is non-judgmental, has a good self image, has her own interests and is self-sufficient. Even with all this, she still requires your sensitivity and understanding. There is no sure-fire way for you to find such a woman. However, going to a variety of social activities in which you are interested -- classes, church activities, volunteer activities, co-ed sports, etc. are good ways to make contact with women who share similar interests with you. A good way to start is to strike up conversations with the women who are there. Since you are both at the same function, you can begin by talking about it. Once in the conversation, listen to her, don't monopolize the conversation. Find out what interests her. Above all, you have to be genuine. If you are putting on an act, she will know it.

When you find a woman who seems to be interested in you, don't rush things. What you tell her about your cross-dressing and when you tell her is very important. First, if your relationship is new and casual, you should probably not tell her at all. A cardinal rule -- you should only tell

someone when NOT telling them makes a difference in your relationship. If your relationship is at that stage then you should plan to divulge your need to wear women's clothing. What is important is that she should know about your cross-dressing BEFORE she is so committed to the relationship that it is very difficult for her to leave. Obviously, this means that you should tell her before you are married.

No matter what your particular situation, your disclosure should proceed at a pace that is comfortable for her, not you. This means that you really have to be sensitive to her. It is very possible that she is unable to really tell you what she is feeling and thinking. Some of this may be reluctance -- she does not want to hurt you. A bigger part of it is simply that her feelings and thoughts are so confused she is just not able to sort them out. Some of the emotions stirred up by your disclosure may relate to some of her subconscious feelings which she simply cannot verbalize.

Now some background information. As I said earlier, women and men generally approach life differently. Some of this comes from the social programming that guides all of our interactions with other people. Each of us expects certain things of members of our sex and different things from members of the other sex. Now put yourself in the woman's shoes (pun intended). She has grown to know you as a man. To her you represent maleness. When you tell her, as gently and sensitively as possible, that you like wearing women's clothes, the best you can hope for is confusion. You have suddenly destroyed your image in her eyes. Let me tell you some of the things that she may feel about your cross-dressing....

- You are less of a man.
- You are homosexual.
- What is wrong with her? Is she a lesbian?
- You will become a transsexual, have reassignment surgery and leave her.
- Other people will find out and ostracize you, her, or both of you.

At worst, the overload of this revelation will cause her to leave, never to return. At best, she will be willing to listen and learn more. Now let me assume that she is over her initial shock and decides that she wants to know more and perhaps be supportive of you.

At this point it is important that you do not dump all the information you know in one session. Should you do so it most likely will result in overload for her. Keep in mind that she probably knows nothing about cross-dressing. You have to help her understand what is going on. You have to separate it from homosexuality and transsexualism. You should not rush her into seeing you cross-dressed, to go to some cross-dressing function or to read a lot of material. Let her guide you disclosure by asking questions. There will be the things she needs to know. To her, it is important to know what this means about you and your relationship with her. At some point it may be desirable for her to go to a counselor who understands cross-dressing and the woman's perspective. She may need to get support to understand the feelings your disclosure have brought up for her. Keep in mind that your cross-dressing is a relationship issue -- not just your problem. To have a solution requires that both you and she work on finding a satisfactory way to handle it.

During this time she may agree to allow you to do certain things. Because she is learning about you, some of these agreements may become intolerable for her. You need to be ready and willing to re-negotiate these agreements -- to compromise. Some of the things that may happen during this time are...

- She may think she can cure you of your need to cross-dress if she is good enough sexually.
- She finds that your cross-dressing takes over all of your free time.
- She becomes angry and/or bored with your continuing need to cross-dress.
- She is competing with your feminine side.
- You look better cross-dressed than she does.
- You love her clothes, not her.

Regardless of how supportive this woman seems to be, there are a couple of things that are wise to stay away from. You should not expect nor ask to wear her clothes. For many women, clothing -- especially lingerie -- is linked to their sexuality. Wearing it invades a very private place and can be threatening. Secondly, you should not tell her that by cross-dressing you are exploring your feminine side so you know what it is like to be a woman. Stating this can make her angry, for I assert that no amount of cross-dressing and going out in public as a woman can ever truly make you understand what it means to be a woman. True, you may gain a better appreciation for some aspects of womanhood, but you escape back to the male world and she cannot. This leads women to feel that cross-dressers get the best of both worlds, not a position to make her want to support you.

As you move along this path of disclosure you have to keep in mind that if you want to keep your relationship with her, you have to compromise. If you insist on having it all -

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- being able to cross-dress whenever you wish -- your relationship will most likely disintegrate. You are asking her to compromise, for if she had her wishes, she would prefer that you did not have the need to cross-dress.

If you are already married, then you have a dilemma. You have to decide whether it is better to continue to keep your secret or tell her. Should you decide to tell her, there is the possibility of her rejection of you. It is nearly certain that her reactions will be more severe, for there is more at stake for here. Some of her feelings and thoughts might be...

- She may be very angry that you did not tell her before marriage.
- She will likely lose her trust in you and may wonder what other secrets you are keeping from her.
- It is her fault that you need to cross-dress.
- The children will find out.
- You will be discovered and lose your job.
- She has no one to confide in.
- She can not deal with this but cannot leave the marriage due to children, economic, emotional and/or social reasons.

She will also most likely have all the other thoughts and feelings that I have mentioned before. In this situation you have to be even more gentle and sensitive. Keep in mind that she is probably "trapped" in this relationship. It will be very hard for her to leave. On the positive side, she loves you and will often want to work out this problem. You can proceed in much the same way as I mentioned earlier -- being ready to compromise and renegotiate.

It is possible that when you tell your wife about your cross-dressing she will not have anything to do with it. There are several turns this predicament can take...

- She will pack up and leave -- perhaps filing for divorce.
- She will insist you stop cross-dressing or she will leave.
- She will insist you get counseling to 'cure' you of this wierd behavior.
- She will have nothing to do with it but not insist you stop.
- You will agree to stop and simply go underground.

What has happened is that you have been rejected by your wife. Handling such rejection is not easy and has the potential for driving a wedge into your relationship. You have to know that you are OK in the face of this rejection. Time and sensitivity to your wife can often soften this situation. If you are going to preserve the relationship it is you that has to change. You have to pick up the pieces and make the peace gestures. Counseling for you, her, or preferably both of you can assist this process.

Suppose, for very good reasons, you decide that you cannot afford to tell this woman about your cross-dressing. What then? Of necessity, you will be leading a life of deception unless you decide that you are going to stop cross-dressing forever. Should you decide not to tell her, then your relationship can suffer because you are not free to tell her your feelings. It means continually hiding your clothes and finding reasons why you are away at meetings such as Fantasia Fair. Not a very pleasant situation but better, perhaps, than not being in a relationship with a woman at all.

Lastly you may have to come to the realization that you may never find a woman who will be supportive of your cross-dressing. Literature and appearances aside, there are few women who can cope with a male who cross-dresses and even fewer who enjoy this aspect in a man. Should you find yourself in that situation, you need to find places where you can cross-dress safely and where you can get support for your special needs. If you are married, this may be your only outlet. If you are not married, you have wider choices of behavior and also may find a woman who is supportive in other ways.

I have not painted a pretty picture but never the less I believe it is a true picture. While there is nothing wrong with cross-dressing, it does go against many social norms. This creates its own set of problems, some of which can be overcome with perseverance and some with luck. If there is any magic in what I have said it comes only with hard work. Being sensitive to another person and being willing to change your behavior for her is not easy. That you are here indicates that you have not given up.

Good luck, and thank you for listening.

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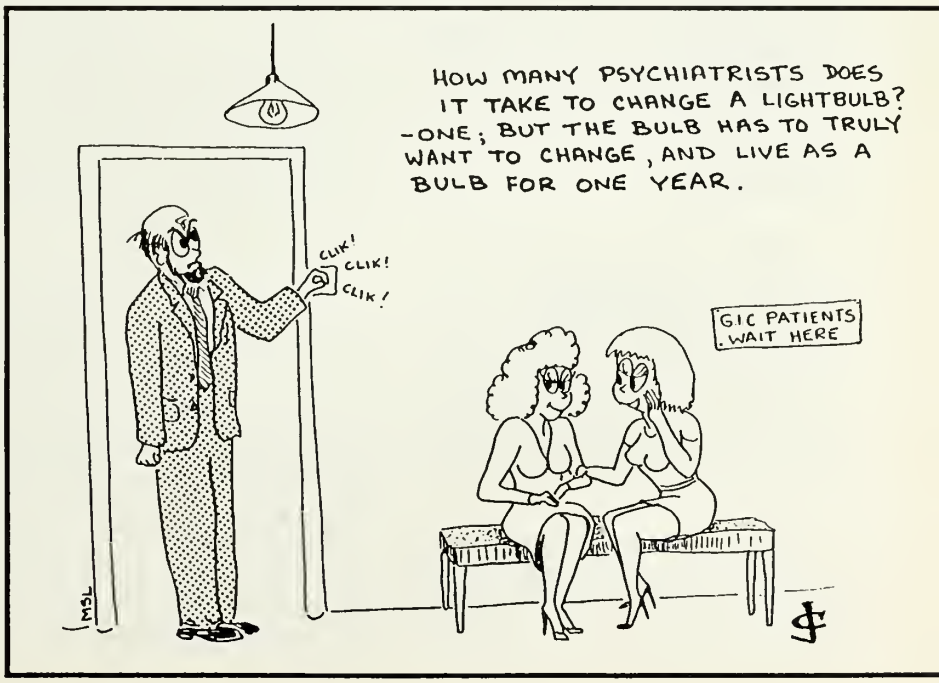

A WIFE'S CLOSET

By: Shirley Kay

The phrase "coming out of the closet" is familiar to all of us involved in the paraculture. I suspect there have been endless conversations concerning it and enough printed material to reach here to the moon.

Usually when we use this phrase we are referring to a crossdresser and his emergence out of a dark place of secrecy and fear to a brighter place of self-acceptance and confidence. Not much is ever said on how this very same closet affects a wife or significant other. For as long as our spouses are in that dark closet, or even if they have emerged into the light, unless we have come to accept and understand their crossdressing we too are locked in that very same closet.

Wives and S.O.s can be held prisoners of the crossdressing just as much as their partners sometimes are. We are victims of some of the same fears and insecurities that befall our husbands and partners and keep them trapped in their closet. We experience the same fear of rejection by society should the crossdressing be discovered and share the need to keep it secret in order to protect the family's reputation and source of livelihood.

We too have faced the need to always be "on guard" in order to protect our families and live with the same fear of being "discovered". Like the men in our lives some of us accept the crossdressing, others of us are still struggling with it, and some of us will never come to terms with it.

The only real difference in our situations is that while these men have no real escape from the effects crossdressing has on their lives, we have the ever present option of ending the relationship and walking away from the problem back to a "normal" life. Some of us choose this option, other's don't.

I hadn't given these problems much thought in a long time until recently when I finally told a close friend about Kathy's crossdressing. It suddenly occurred to me that while Kathy had kicked the door off the closet and come flying out into the world-- in many respects I was still back there fumbling around in the semi-darkness. The door had been opened for me but there were still some things I had to come to terms with before I could totally emerge.

Over the last two years since Kathy has joined Tri-Ess and come "out of the closet". She has become more self confident with herself and become accepting of her need to crossdress. As she has become more at ease with her situation is has also helped me to become more accepting and able to understand. But most of the people we have "come out to" have been other crossdressers and their families so there wasn't much danger of rejection or criticism. But when it came to exposing this vulnerable side to someone outside of this safe haven all the old fears returned.

In this case the fears were unfounded, for as it turns out this person had once been involved with a counseling group for crossdressers and their families and was quite understanding and supportive of our situation and couldn't understand why we hadn't told her before. She was also amazed that we had managed to keep it a complete secret from our families and others in the small community we had lived in; and that our marriage had survived the strain. Even her husband (a sailor) seemed to take the news well enough. While he was surprised his old drinking buddy was "one of those guys on Donahue", as long as he was "straight" sexually, it was okay.

While we do share many of the same fears that affect our partners, we also have our own special brand of fears and anxieties which we keep stored in our own unique portion of the closet. Fears and anxieties which keep us from fully understanding and accepting our partners and their lifestyles and hinder us from also emerging from the darkness and living in the light.

Each of our situations is unique, no two being exactly the same, but in talking with other wives and S.O.s no matter how different our stories we always seem to find some common denominators. I certainly am no expert, no PHD.., but I'd like to address from my own point of view some of the feelings which seem to weave a common thread that keeps us bound together in a unique sisterhood.

One of the common worries wives and significant others have to deal with is a fear of how our partner's crossdressing reflects on our own femininity and seems to surface in two reactions.

The first reaction seems to be related to the manner in which the spouse dresses while en femme. If a wife or S.O. reacts negatively to her partner's crossdressing it may be because she sees his style of dress as a negative reflection of how her partner actually views women.

Rather than viewing his attire as a matter of personal preference or a lack of instruction and knowledge of fashion and makeup she may interpret it as his way of criticizing and demeaning herself or women in general. A defensive response to this mistaken idea is to react negatively to the crossdressing as a whole.

The second threat has been likened to "competing with another woman". Their spouses femme selves are always "dressed in their best" with "never a hair out of place" and their "makeup

perfect". In some cases there may even be the fear that our partners femme selves look "better" than us. We may even be jealous over all the time, attention, and perhaps even money spent on her rather than on us.

We sometimes tend to miss the fact that for our husband's and S.O.s dressing en femme is a very special and in some cases rare occasion. Of course they want to look their very best! Don't we all go to extra measures with our appearance for special occasions. If they had the opportunity to freely dress enfemme on a daily basis, contending with the same mundane tasks of everyday life, I'm sure the 3 inch heels would fall by the wayside for Reeboks just as they have for us.

By putting their actions in these types of perspectives, asking questions, and communicating with one another, hopefully we can understand the reasoning behind their behavior. With this knowledge we can dispel our jealousies and fears, and become more accepting of our partner's crossdressing rather than threatened by it.

By the same token our spouses should also try to better understand the reasons behind some of our actions and requests in regards to their lifestyle. When we make special requests and set certain limitations concerning an aspect of the crossdressing please make some attempt to understand our point of view and our needs. These requests are not meant as a negative judgement or criticism of you and your lifestyle; they are a reflection of our needs and possible insecurities. You want us to be accepting and understanding of you, please try to be so in return without taking a defensive posture, and try to reach a compromise which will satisfy both your needs.

Another common factor of distress is how people outside the paraculture view the women who stay in relationships with men who crossdress and also some of the opinions these same women have of themselves.

While the general public may view crossdressers as "crazy" or "kinky"-- just think of what they must, in some cases, think of the women who stay in long term relationships with one. After all, from their point of view, our situation is nothing even a BAD lawyer couldn't "cure"!

If we got involved in these relationships not knowing about the crossdressing then we at least have an excuse for the situation we are in and can easily "correct" it. If we were informed at the onset and still chose to get involved then we must be even sicker than the men we are involved with. If we choose to stay , regardless of when we found out, we must really be into something "kinky" or at best have some sort of lesbian tendencies.

These people fail to see that how our partners crossdressing affects our personal lives is just as diverse as other factors that affect so-called "normal" relationships. No two situations are exactly the same and no one situation is more right or wrong than another. Each is a matter of personal preference, compromise, and acceptance.
As far as how we sometimes view ourselves-- I think a good example is to relate some statements made to me by one of the first wives I met when Kathy joined Tri-Ess.

Her and her husband had corresponded and talked by phone with us for a number of months and eventually we decided to meet and spend a short weekend together.

In these conversations this woman led me to believe she was completely accepting and understanding of her husband's crossdressing, even though there had been problems in the past. Upon meeting her in person I soon found this in actuality to be untrue. While her acceptance and understanding had increased over the years she still, in fact, had a lot to come to grips with.

The most revealing statements came when both our husbands left the room and she said, "Now that they're gone, and can't hear, we can finally be honest." She then began talking about how selfish our husbands really were or they wouldn't continue to do something that upset us so much. She concluded our talk with the following statement: "Let's face it Honey, the only reason we don't divorce these men is because we don't want the rest of the world to know the kind of men we really married." "What would they think of us and our children if they knew how we've really lived all these years?"

Till this day her statement haunts me. Clearly this woman is not only a prisoner of her husband's crossdressing, but also the anxieties she harbors due to her own fear and ignorance.

I personally have been compared to a battered wife or the spouse of an alcoholic who won't leave a bad situation; living under the pretense that things would improve. I've been accused of living in the situation I do because I'm afraid to stand on my own two feet and leave the "cushy" lifestyle my husband's paycheck provides. As well as asked how I could put up with the kinky things that must surely go on in our bedroom. All in an attempt, (by someone who supposedly cared about me) to get me to come to my senses and leave.

I can't deny I have contemplated divorce. But I always seemed to eventually reject it due to the fact that, as bad and hopeless as things seemed, I always had the feeling that if we could BOTH come to terms with the crossdressing the other things would work themselves out. Fortunately I was right, and the long wait was worth it. Eventually we found Tri-Ess and others facing the same situations we do-- people who understand. A safe haven for us BOTH to "come out of the closet" and into the light.

Shirley Kay
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Editorial (TS):

(Edited from 'Rainbow', Dec. '88, published by the Rainbow Gender Association, Box 700730, San Jose, CA 75150-7205)

THOUGHTS OF A MOTHER

By: Jeanne Ebner
Founder of LOTS (Loved Ones of Transsexuals)

Few times in a parent's life can be more frightening than the moment your child announces that he or she is a transsexual and wants to have a sex change.

"Transsexual? What's that?", you ask. An explanation from your child only serves to fill you with confusion, fear, guilt and thoughts of "Where did I go wrong?" "Why me?" "What will people say?" "Who can I talk to?"

My son was 32 years old when he took me into his confidence, and I remember vividly the overwhelming sense of both relief and fear I felt at the time. Relief because finally there was a label for what had been bothering him all these years -- the rage he expressed, the isolation he felt, his inability to communicate with me, and fear for what lay ahead.

Did I suspect for all the years I had raised him that he had this dilemma; did I ever have a clue as to what was really causing his inner conflict? I searched my memory over and over, but never was there even a suspicion that this kind of problem was his. Though transsexuals manifest unhappiness, discontent, despair, and depression, they become very clever at concealing the true nature of their difficulty and even try for many years to "fit in" to society's expectations for them based upon their external anatomy. My own son was in the Marine Corps for four years, including one year in Vietnam at the height of the war, pursued jobs that required hard physical labor, and even married for three years. At one point, when the Vietnam delayed-stress syndrome was considered a factor in the veteran's maladjustments, I contacted the Veteran's Outreach Program in an effort to determine if this was his problem.

Later, when I visited him in Oregon, he made a statement that introduced a new element into my thinking. Without divulging his "secret", he said, "Mother, I have something to tell you... not yet, but when I do, I won't need your approval. However, I will want your acceptance." A perplexing statement. I decided then that he must be gay, for transsexualism was not even a word in my vocabulary. He had made his decision that he must live the truth finally and become what he was intended to be -- a female. However, he was still not ready to tell me and risk the rejection he feared, although he had already started the transition through hormonal treatment, electrolysis and psychological counseling.

Finally, the following year, he took me into his confidence. My initial shock and bewilderment was followed by a period which I can only describe as mourning... mourning for the son I had lost. Then I came to the realization that no matter how confused and fearful I was, I had to deal with the realities of the situation. I loved my son very much, and I would love my daughter with the same depth of feeling. her problems would be my problems, and I would do everything within my power to help her attain the happiness she deserved. This child of mine was indeed the most courageous person I had ever known; first for all she had endured for so many years, and then for all the problems she had yet to face. She would need my support and acceptance, and so I reached deep inside myself and found strength I never knew I had.

My daughter underwent the sex-change surgery so that she is now a female physically, as well as mentally and psychologically. With time, she becomes more self-confident and female gestures, voice, posture and mannerisms become a natural part of her. She is well on the road to a successful career. It still fills me with joy to hear her laughter and see the expression of peace on her face. Yes, I lost a son but I gained a daughter... and much more.

Through my experience, I felt the need to reach out to others in similar circumstances so that we might gain strength, support, and understanding from each other. Thus, LOTS (Loved Ones of Transsexuals) was formed.

Editorials (TS):

(Edited from 'Rosebuds', Aug & Nov '89, published by the Tiffany Club, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888 508-358-2305)

SUCCESS AS A TS

By: Charlene Mann

OK, so you've arrived in your own mind that you really are a member of the opposite sex inside, and your inner person is of a gender other than the image that your outer body would project. You're TS. OK, where to from here?

First question: How badly do you really want to change? Do you want it badly enough to spend a minimum of three (probably more like five or six) of your best years in psychological therapy, physio- and neurochemical treatment, and finally (if you're both lucky and smart) enmeshed in a protracted real-life test which, if you fail it, will leave you worse off in every way than you were before?

If you want the end result that intensely, though, there is one last question left. Do you want this change badly enough to work for every dime of the thousands of dollars you will certainly need to spend on yourself just to make it happen? If not, then maybe a sex change is really for you.

It's the old saying: "Where there's a will there's a way." So, you say you want it badly enough to die for? Wouldn't you rather work for it? After all, getting dead before getting changed is guaranteed to put the wrong name on your gravestone, right?

Why not work for it? Afraid they'll laugh you out of the job? Harass you at work? Deny you the right to go to the bathroom? Or what? You're right. All these horrors have happened before, and probably will happen again to someone. Maybe you. Maybe not. One never knows. Changing sex is one of the riskiest deals Life has to offer. Like Kipling's Stute Fish told the Whale Who Would Taste of Man, "Nice, but nubbly."

The real crux of your lumpy biscuit is this: If you're really TS and in need of any degree of sex or gender reassignment, you're so uncomfortable with yourself in your present state that you squeak at every turn of Life's wheel. You're fighting at every turn. You just can't get along with yourself or others because being yourself as you are hurts so much! You need to change in order to stop squeaking. (There is no other valid reason for doing this thing, Dear!) So, why not start practicing not-squeaking to the best of your ability right now and start moving on that Big Goal?

Your best ally in this battle is your words. You tell your story with your words. If you tell your story without holes or crossups, you tend to get what you ask for. Just be sure that every little word is true in every way, that's all. Learn to live by your words - both in letter and in spirit. Get good with them, and acquire access to the tools that make woodwork easier to quickly and well. Learn to use a computer and a word processor. Learn to write your own resume'. Learn to make what you say about yourself on that resume' stick. Answer the employment ads, bend the resume' to fit the interview, and get the job. You're smart enough to know you need your sex change - you're certainly smart enough to get the job that will empower you to pay for the process. Right? The quality you're cultivating is called "integrity". Words that mean the same thing are "character", "honesty", and "honor". Opposites include "conformist", "nut", and "dishonor". Which labels are likely to bring you the greatest comfort during your time on Planet Earth? (People DO love their little labels, you know!) Aren't happy labels worth working for, and in the final crunch, aren't YOU really worth the effort?

The funny thing (wondrous really) is this: Once you've done literally everything you can with integrity, honesty, and honor, Life itself tends to mop up the leftover details. Try it and see for yourself!

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A MATTER OF COURTESY

By: Charlene Mann

A sad story came to me through a friend. It seems a friend of hers had spent some of the best years and work of her life in making the most radical change of all. Once the legal work was all done and all the scars (both social and surgical) had healed, this new woman set out to meet the man of whom she had dreamed since early childhood. She was reasonably pretty, and figured she had a few good years left to find and enjoy him.

She found him. He was reasonably handsome,healthy, and oh, so straight and innocent. A man for a lifetime, he seemed to her. A woman for a lifetime, she seemed to him. They became close with each other, and came to love each other very much. There was an engagement ring humbly offered and joyously accepted. There was even a wedding date set. Then one day the tish hit the fan.

You see, someone who knew her met him. This mutual acquaintance fell into conversation with him. In the course of the conversation, the mutual acquaintance just happened to mention, "Oh yes, I've know her for years. We're good

friends. She's a post-op TS you know. Like, she used to be a man?"

The groom-to-be was first stunned, then angry, then hurt. Why hadn't his intended told him this thing? He was, as you remember, very straight and naive. He did exactly what his upbringing instructed him to do when one meets a freak up close - he ran. He dumped her.

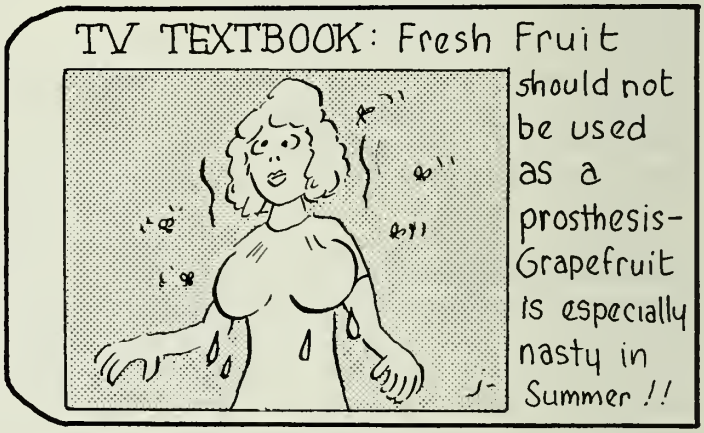
She was devastated. She in turn dumped her long-time friend - the big mouth. He went into a deep depression and disappeared. She nearly committed suicide. So near and yet so far! The well-meaning fool who blew the deal is now an outcast. So, nobody got married, everyone is barely living, and miserable.

The moral? There are two of those in this tale of woe.

One: If you are yourself a trans-person (of whatever degree or persuasion) and you care about your relationship with your intended, you may do well to be honest before your intended gets serious. The courage isn't in you having gone for surgery. Any fool can do that, and some do. The real demonstration is in how you deal with everything that comes after the knife.

Two: If you are a friend of a trans-person, you need to understand very clearly that such a person has a past which is fundamentally their own business to real or not, as S/HE - and nobody else - chooses.

This is a lesson that members of the lesbian and gay community learned long ago. It's simply part of that culture. Don't volunteer ANYTHING about ANYBODY. Period! No matter what! If some nosy fool starts asking questions about someone, say, "Go ask that person yourself," then be there just in case things get hairy. It's a matter of courtesy, you know.



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(Edited from 'The Cactus Flower', Vol 5 No 11, published by Alpha Zeta Chapter of Tri-Ess, P.O. Box 24459, Tempe, AZ 85285-4459)

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

By: Terri F.

I go frequently to Church dressed, not to be blasphemous, not to thumb my nose at God, only to worship in comfort like everyone else. I try to find a seat off by myself near the back, where my height (plus heels) won't draw so much attention, where I can practice with my voice to make the pitch match that of the other ladies of the congregation. Then I can concentrate on the Mass that I came to hear. True, there is some interaction required. The Shaking of a few hands, the exchange of well wishes, but I've always managed to handle those occasions "passably".

Last Sunday I overslept and missed the sparsely attended early Mass and decided to brave the mid-morning service. I arrived early to avoid the rush and to plot my strategy. I chose the far right of the third row from the back. Since the row was empty, I decided to sit on the far end next to the aisle. It looked a little funny, me sitting like a leper with halitosis all alone at the very edge of the church, so I casually slid over a few places down the pew. It didn't bother me when minutes later an old couple came in and sat next to me at the end of the row. Now at least I looked like a leper with her parents!

It didn't bother me either when a woman about my age came in with her four year old daughter in tow and sat at the other end of the row. There was still a good twelve to fourteen feet of separation I silently judged. I still had a lot of space. The situation remained that way until about one minute before Mass when a family of four decided to join our row, forcing everyone to slide over until we were shoulder to shoulder. The little girl remained on the other side of her mother as the service began.

Most youngsters I guess are explorers, not really appreciating the intents and purposes behind Sunday Mass, and trying to amuse and occupy themselves while the grown-ups go through the sit-stand-kneel ritual. It didn't take long before the little girl crawled around to the other side of her mother and when I sat down I almost squashed her hand! She looked at me as I adjusted my skirt and hoped my "Dry Idea" was kicking in!

I was brought up to act in church as if the Lord himself were in the congregation, but today's children are different. The little girl looked me over more thoroughly than the doctor who gave me my Army physical! She checked me out every square inch, from the soles of my three inch heels to the polish on my nails, to the lipstick on my very dry mouth. I kept trying to ignore the piercing stare of her blue eyes, thankful I'd done a real good makeup job and that my hair was my own.

What happened next was amazing. After her close inspection was done, the little girl, obviously satisfied and comfortable now with me, leaned over and rested her head on one of my padded shoulders! She smiled up at me and I smiled down at her. She remained that way until the homily was finished. I guess we brought out the best in one another.

To me it was the ultimate complement. Now I know that God is watching out for me. I hope he keeps that little girl safe from prejudice for many years to come.

Editorial (S.O.):

(Edited from the 'Inner View', Vol 5 No 6, published by Cross-Port, P.O. Box 12701, Cincinnati, OH 45212)

ACCEPTANCE

By: Laurie

In San Francisco and in Cincinnati, I've been asked "how come" I accept cross-dressing as well as I do. I'm never quite sure what to say about why I'm one of the lucky ones. I almost start to laugh because I didn't handle it well at all when I found out. Time and life experience helped. Maybe I have a higher tolerance for the differences in people because I'm a nurse and felt less threatened than some because of basic self esteem. Maybe my acceptance is because I am younger and our relationship has never had strict role definitions along gender lines. Even given that, I have sadly seen couples younger than us break up over dressing.

So what words of wisdom do I have, somehow finding myself an unofficial authority, a position for which I never applied? Well, it's probably best to leave the rest of the world out of it at first. Of course you have learned attitudes, the should's and should-not's of your life, the 'how you thought things would be', and the 'what would the (neighbors, church, your mother, --- [fill in the blank]) say'. The key word here is 'learned' attitudes. Take a deep breath, swallow the fears for now, and remember the person you care for. Then, take the strength of that thought and use it to learn what you can about cross-dressing from informed, non-judgmental sources. Then, take that knowledge and apply it to the emotional aspects of the situation. As Cathy points out in her reply to the distressed letter elsewhere in this issue, they're still the same person with whom you fell in love. All relationships, with "dressers" or not, call for a certain amount of giving of yourself; it s this giving that makes you a better person when you are in love.

We get so caught up in being assertive about our own needs just at the time we most need to go with what is the most loving for the other person. Heather presented to me a devil's advocate point of view -- what if your husband or boyfriend asked you to never wear jeans or pants because he is only able to envision you as a woman in a skirt, hence that is the only way he could accept the whole person that is you? Most of us would scream "sexist!" in a hot half second.

Often the cross-dresser can assist acceptance in a "zen" sort of way by letting their loved one not accept. It sounds contradictory, but think about it. It makes the life of the person who dresses easier if their significant other can deal with it, so getting their acceptance could become a selfish endeavor. Acceptance, like love, can't be forced or bought or any of those good things. It has to grow in its own time if at all. That kind of patience is a scarce skill in our instant world of microwaves, fax, and Federal Express. I was never pushed. I did vacillate in my feelings. When I did come to the meetings it was because I was curious what Cathy was all excited about, not because she wanted me to or (worse yet) made me.

Part of my acceptance, too, is in my nature as a fairly practical soul. When I found out it wasn't something for which I was responsible, and that it wasn't going to go away even if I wanted it to, I actually felt a certain relief. It occurred to me that several things could happen:

Cathy could try to stop dressing and be a very unhappy person (and I found out that doesn't work over time anyway).

Or, she could continue and we could entertain ourselves forever by having rousing brawls interspersed with quiet snits.

Or, I could deal with it. Which is what I decided, tentatively, and waited to see how it would work out. I didn't want to waste the energy of the relationship living in constant conflict.

Basically acceptance is influenced by trust issues in the relationship, and the willingness of the partner to understand. Acceptance is complicated by fear of the unknown, intolerance of diversity, and past attitudes. Talking helps, but doing hateful things to each other doesn't. (Since talking with others, I've heard stories of unkindnesses that I wish were incredible.) A support group like Cross-Port helps too. Sometimes acceptance is difficult because you're too close to a situation to make sense of it, or perhaps the person who is explaining it isn't all that sure of him or herself to start with.

A support group helps because you find out your loved one isn't the only person in the world who does this, and you meet others with varying degrees of self acceptance -- some with quite high self esteem, and most having a lot of fun at the meeting, which is contagious. Once I got to know some of the personalities involved (in Cross-Port's case I should say 'characters'), I've come to look forward to the meetings to see friends -- something I never ever imagined happening at the beginning of this journey of learning.

Actually, when I first found out, I didn't think it was the beginning of anything except the end. Good thing I'm not right about everything.

THE CONCEPT OF "MERGE" AND THE "TRANSFORMER"

By: Michelle Kingsbury

It is nothing new to hear someone claim that cross-dressing allows a person to release his "girl within," to express those personality traits that are normally not permitted to those who are locked into the male role. (The philosophy was first expounded by Virginia Prince's 'Understanding Crossdressing', and "the expression of femininity in the male.") According to such advocates, people are socialized into two general categories -- masculinity and femininity, each of which has its own distinct list of do's and don't's. The personalities and behaviors that go with these two categories are more or less mutually exclusive. That is, those behaviors that are reserved for the masculine category are not reserved for the feminine category, and those behaviors that are reserved for the feminine category are not reserved for the masculine category. Masculine and feminine roles function as the sum total of all the personality traits (and corresponding behaviors) that make up a particular category. To Prince's advocates, cross-dressing serves to unlock the barrier which separates these two categories and allow men who are normally trapped in the masculine role to "escape" and experience the feminine role.

The basic message here is of course the androgynous ideal. One who cross-dresses should be able to expand his horizons by allowing him (albeit temporarily) the opportunity to tap both the masculine and the feminine for his desired brand of personality expression. However, one implicit message in this philosophy which may be open to question is the belief that clothing/cross-dressing is necessary for experiencing this androgyny. Nor is it necessarily true that a person can only exhibit traits appropriate to his current outward appearance (that is, solely choosing from the feminine category while dressed as a woman and solely choosing from the masculine category while dressed as a man).

At least as early as the 1930's (with J.C. Flugel's 'The Psychology of Clothes') and the 1950's (with Lawrence Langner's 'The Importance of Wearing Clothes'), clothing researchers have praised the value of garments in bringing about certain behaviors and attitudes within individuals. Essentially researchers support the "clothes make the man" adage with such examples as, a man dresses as a slob, therefore he feels and acts like a slob; a woman puts on a stiff and professional suit, therefore she feels and acts like a professional; and finally, a man dresses up in soft, feminine attire, therefore he feels and acts feminine.

Such specific examples seem to be part of a general principle where clothing serves as a lens to bring out, nurture, project, and amplify personality components which are already within an individual, but for some reason are blocked, slowed, or stifled by some source (usually socially-constructed roles or norms). This is not to say that a person cannot act in a certain way without the aid of clothes. To use the above examples, there are well-dressed slobs, casually-dressed professionals, and masculinely-dressed men who are feminine. These traits already exist within an individual to begin with, so they may be expressed at any time. However, clothing serves as a lens, to amplify these traits, to make it easier for a person to express them. (This idea can appropriately be named "clothing lens effect.")

Why clothing functions as such is open to speculation. Perhaps the clothes function as a crutch, to support people through socially difficult situations. Perhaps they serve as a concrete definition or reference point on how to act, much analogous to how an individual will turn to other persons in order to define how he should act (especially in an ambiguous situation). Perhaps it is a differential treatment mechanism, where observers view a person dressed a certain way, treat him in a way that corresponds to the scheme that those clothes trigger, and in turn causes the original person to act in a way that corresponds to his clothes. Or, perhaps there is some intrinsic quality of the clothing itself, such as materials or texture that brings about specific behaviors. Whatever the explanation, the effect of clothing on behavior is a very observable phenomenon in everyday life, despite the lack of empirical research which has been devoted to the subject.

It is also unknown why clothing affects behavior in some people more than others. Perhaps it depends on some individual variable, such as that person's sensitivity to outside cues, or perhaps it depends on that person's need for a lens to help express his personality. Or it may depend on outside factors, such as how many barriers interfere with a person's personality expression. Nor can

we be certain why the effects of clothing on behavior tend to lessen over time for some individuals (e.g., a student with disciplinary problems despite wearing a professional uniform). The answer to this latter question, I would hypothesize, would either be simple adaptation (repeated exposure/use dulls its power), the possibility that incompatible personality traits override the clothing lens effect (in the example of the student, he may have strong anti-conformist tendencies), or the perception that a person is being forced to dress in a certain way (people like to believe they are in control over their own destinies and rebel when they feel otherwise), thus cancelling any positive effects the clothing may bestow.

Transvestites appear both strongly sensitive to the influence of clothing on personality (among the most common effects being increased extroversion, femininity, and self-confidence) and capable of maintaining this sensitivity over long periods of time (they dress up because they want to, not because they feel they're being forced to; they usually dress up irregularly instead of everyday, thus reducing adaptation effects).

Assuming that an individual can be significantly affected by clothing in the first place, there appear to be three possible avenues that this effect can take. First, the person may eventually stop expressing personality despite still dressing up in certain clothes. This can be due to adaptation of the clothing, newly-formed incompatible personality traits, the perception that he is forced to dress up, or he may discover that after trying out these new personalities he does not necessarily like them. Second, the person may continue on as before, relying on the clothing as a crutch to lean on or a lens to help penetrate various barriers to personality expression. Usually in this case there is a perception that the clothes are necessary for the trait expression. (This is the philosophy Prince has advocated.) Third, and most important for this paper, the person may begin to internalize these new personality traits into his psyche, amplifying them (probably because he learns that certain rewards are contingent upon them), and ultimately being able to express these traits on his own, without the aid of clothes, when previously (prior to discovering the clothing lens effect) this was not possible.

This is the concept of "merge".

When a person who has utilized the clothing lens effect for personality amplification realizes (either consciously or unconsciously) that clothing is not a necessary condition for expressing those personality traits, he has merged. That is, feeling or behaving in a particular way is not restricted to specific times and places (when and where you happen to be wearing a particular type of clothing) but can be expressed whenever and wherever the desire is present.

Transvestism serves as a very good example to illustrate merge due to its dealing with the two (more or less) mutually exclusive categories of masculine and feminine. Under the clothing lens effect, cross-dressing serves to amplify those (feminine) traits that are normally blocked or suppressed by socially constructed barriers. Many transvestites, for whatever reason, cannot express these feminine behaviors without the aid of clothes, so fenced in are they to the masculine role. In addition to this, as many transvestites temporarily enter the feminine role, they temporarily step out of the masculine role; thus while en femme, they frequently express exclusively (or at least mostly) feminine traits and leave their masculine traits behind.

When a transvestite merges, this "either-or" distinction tends to blur. such a person becomes capable of expressing more and more feminine traits while dressed as a man. Likewise, masculine traits begin creeping into his cross-dressed state. Ultimately for the merged individual, the social barriers that separate the masculine and the feminine begin to dissolve, so that those two words become meaningless as dividers and useful only as convenient adjectives. As a result of this, a merged individual's masculine persona and femme identity will eventually fuse into one being, so that each is fully capable of

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feeling the same thoughts and exhibiting the same behaviors, with the only major difference between them being that one happens to wear pants and the other happens to wear skirts. For this person, any trait or behavior is fair game (unless it is ego dystonic or was never there to begin with) in either identity, regardless of whether it is masculine or feminine.

A merged person is very similar to an androgynous person in the end result. The difference lies in the processes that were undergone to achieve this end result. The androgynous person has always been androgynous. He has expressed both masculine and feminine traits since an early age; rewards of various kinds served to engrain each category into his psyche, thus creating his well-rounded personality. The merged person has not always been merged. His earlier life was confined to one specific set of traits (masculine in the case of transvestites). Through the clothing lens effect, discovered at some later point in his life, he found himself capable of broadening the amount of traits available to him. Eventually eh could internalize these traits, applying them within his own psyche and being able to express his traits without the necessary aid of clothing, thus being merged.

Merge is not limited to the categories of masculinity and femininity, though these are probably the most easily recognized. Merge may apply to any situation where clothing is originally used for the purpose of aiding the expression of some trait not normally in a person's psyche. This includes, but is not limited to, increasing extroversion (common in transvestites), loosened inhibitions (the mask and costume phenomenon), and improving discipline (the reasoning behind uniforms). the only prerequisite is that the person originally had some difficulty expressing that trait until experiencing the clothing lens effect and subsequently the internalization of the trait.

Once a transvestite merges his two personas, he may still cross-dress for various reasons, whether they be sexual arousal (fetishism), intense identification with women (the transgenderist phenomenon), or more commonly, because some other facet of personality is still undergoing the process of merge. The last reason makes sense when one understands that merge covers not one set o personalities but a wide range of various traits and that an individual set of clothing may influence a person on many levels. In the case of the transvestite, he may have merged his masculine and feminine personas, but women's clothing may still serve to increase extroversion or decrease other inhibitions due to the clothing lens effect. That is, he has merged on one level but not on another. Merge, therefore, is an ongoing process that will not end until all traits and behaviors can be expressed wherever and whenever, regardless of what type of clothing is being worn.

Since clothing does not only affect outward behavior but actual feelings on a personality level, I have coined the term "transformer" as a possible alternative name for those who cross-dress for purposes of altering their personality for whatever reason. I use this word because cross-dressing affects the person across his entire psyche, changing the very form of his being. This aptly fits with the frequent reference that most transvestites make toward their "girl within", referring to her as a separate entity, a distinct person with a life of her own.

- END -

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(Edited from 'The Primrose, Vol 3 No 8, published by the Chicago Gender Society, P.O. Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657 312-975-8412)

EDITORIAL:

By: Karen Anne Baumgardner (IL-1398)

Suppose you have been having a pain in your lower abdomen for a couple of weeks. Thinking that you may have appendicitis, you visit your G.P., who proceeds to tell you that he didn't really study any stomach stuff in school, but if you think you have appendicitis, he'll make an appointment for surgery for you right away. Or, you go to another G.P., who tells you that you just have an ulcer, and that you should find a corporate ladder to climb so that you'll be in the company of your own kind. Or, perhaps they'll tell you to come back once a week and talk about the pain until it goes away. Certainly, you would question the credentials of the doctors. You might wonder just what in the world they spent their time studying in medical school.

This would seem to be the state of much of the psychiatric community in regards to dealing with the question of the gender confused and gender dysphoric.

In scenario one, I have a friend from the heart of the cornbelt who went for counseling to someone who had never encountered a crossdresser or transsexual before. She believed everything my friend told her, and after a couple of sessions, signed papers of approval for gender reassignment surgery! Fortunately, the patient was smart enough to question this diagnosis, and came to the realization that she was not a transsexual.

In scenario two, another friend went to a big-time psychiatrist, who told her that she was really a homosexual, and that she must think about moving to San Francisco or someplace like that, so that she could be happy amongst her "own kind". This person is a transsexual.

And then there is a case, number three, that those of us who read Renee Richards' autobiography might recall, the case of the super-big-time psychiatrist who insisted that her transsexualism could be cured if she came for sessions where he could scream at her and harass her into leading a "normal" life.

It has been estimated that between two and five percent of the population is attracted to crossdressing in one form or another. A much smaller percentage of people are considered transsexuals, but since we are all lumped together anyway, let's lump up and claim that we are a significant portion of the population.

We are also listed officially as having a mental disorder. So, what have we got? A significant portion of the population with a mental disorder, and quite frankly, we apparently aren't even worth studying. If nothing else, someone should be making a million bucks on us somewhere, and all we are in a classroom is a few mentions in the section on sexual inversion.

One problem is the fact that we still don't know a whole lot about the human mind itself, much less the soul. The brain itself as a physical object can be studied, and through experimentation they can find drugs to alter moods and motor control, and they can burn or slice away small parts and make you a real sweetheart (or sweet potato), and they can saw off the top of your head and poke around and make things jump. Of course this is not nearly as much fun as being a proctologist, and it sounds kind of icky to boot.

it is known that physical disorders can have causal effects that relate to bizarre behavior in human beings. There is no reason to believe that this is the case concerning crossdressing and transsexualism, although biological causes continue to be studied, and may eventually provide a partial answer to some of our questions. However, it is highly unlikely that all the eggs will be found in one basket.

Dr. Richard Docter, in his work 'Transvestites And Transsexuals', is painfully honest, even humble, in pointing out that he is not finding answers. However, he is exploring theories and correlating research done with (and bless his heart for this) members of the gender community whom, one can strongly presume, are happy, healthy, otherwise mentally balanced people. Most of

the theories he proposes are, as some people have noted, reflective of our own. Since the doctor has spent years working within our community, this would seem logical. However, a lot of his fellow professionals would scoff at his working habits because you're not supposed to hang around with your subjects. This goes against the prevailing theory that in order to do dispassionate research, on must keep an arm's length from the subject.

What better method is there of studying people of whom so little is really known? Well, there is the simple traditional approach: Declare us all mentally ill, and if you're in a liberal mood, you can patronize us and be honest up to a point. Tell us that although we are practicing abnormal behavior, we are not really harming anybody, so if we can live with it, you can live with it. or, if you want to make a buck or two, you can sell your patient on the idea of years of psychotherapy to effect a cure. This is unfair on my part. Those who believe in this second approach sincerely believe their dogmatic principle that says they can "cure" us through a psychoanalytic process. Rather than question their own principles, they will continue to believe, with all conviction, that they have an answer. This has been proven, although it is not universally recognized, to be a lot of bunk.

Truth of the matter is, our theories are as good as anybody else's, including Richard Docter's, Ann Landers' (who has published some pretty wacky opinions that she gets from her professional consultant), or George Hagopian's.

Are we mentally ill? Is Phil Donahue the only person who cares about us? The answer to both questions is a resounding NO!

First of all, WE care about us. At the 'Be All' weekend, Debbie Langley, a counselor who works out of Northeastern University, commented, **"This was where the 'helping professionals' ought to be, so that they could observe the warmth, love, sharing, and, yes, the happiness that was so obviously present in the hotel throughout the weekend. This, without any stretch of the imagination, I would feel free to call healthy behavior."**

The fact that some group of professionals has gotten together and thrown a stigmatic label on all of us does nothing to negate the fact that given - or availing ourselves of - and cultivating the proper attitude towards who we are and what we do is what makes a healthy individual. If you believe that you are mentally ill, it is because you have been conditioned to believe that you are by society and by a professional hierarchy that is steeped in self-serving theory.

Where does the break come? Who is working on our behalf? For starters, there are a lot of people within our community who are working. Many members of our community all over the country are getting deeply involved with professional groups such as SEICUS, ASSECT, and QUAD-S. These organizations are doing legitimate work in the field of sexual and gender deviations, and a lot of what they will accomplish in the years to come will derive from input from the gay and lesbian community, the gender community, etc. These are professional organizations who do care, and they are open-minded enough to admit that they don't have all the answers, yet, they are wise enough to offer us the opportunity to work with them to try and find a few.

Will their studies be embraced by the rest of the professional community? Hard to tell. However, they are in there plugging away on our behalf, and the movement continues to grow, so there is hope.

From this movement, hopefully, will come the removal from us all of the stigma of mental disorder, and perhaps a reversal of the Johns Hopkins theory that sex reassignment surgery is experimental in nature. As Diane Chambers might so eloquently have put it, this is pish posh and twaddle. The only experimenting being done is in upgrading techniques of surgery for the benefit of the patient. The insurance companies love Johns Hopkins' theory, since it gives them an excuse not to pay, and since they are practically a government unto themselves, this is going to be a tough nut to crack.

You had better believe that there is also a countermovement from both the conservative elements within the professional community and society itself which is already trying to head off this work by discrediting and casting aspersions on everybody who has done work in the field of human sexuality, from Kinsey to the present. They are out there manipulating statistics, misrepresenting studies, and out and out lying to draw a picture of researchers in sexuality as perverted voyeurs and modern-day Dr. Frankensteins.

Guess what? These are the people who have the mental problems, not us. When they start listing homophobia, racial superiority, anti-Semitism, and jogging as mental disorders, we'll have some evidence that the professional hierarch is taking a legitimate stand in the field of mental health. As for me, I'll keep on being who I am, and I'll be happy doing it. Why don't you do the same?

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9th Annual Tiffany Club Awards Banquet & Weekend. Tiffany Club, P.O. Box 2883, Woburn, MA 01888 (508) 358-2305

FEBRUARY 23-25, 1990:
The second annual "TEXAS 'T' PARTY". A 3-day outing. Boulton & Park Society, P.O. Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280-3252 (512) 657-2540

FEBRUARY 24, 1990:
3rd annual LAMBDA BALL. Lambda Foundation, 500 Pennsylvania Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15224, or, TransPitt, P.O. Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230

MARCH 3, 1990:
4th Annual 'NIGHT OF A 1000 GOWNS'Charity Ball at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, NYC Ben Freeman, 2M, 200 E 16th St, NYC, NY 10003

MARCH 20-25, 1990:
4th annual 'COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER' CONVENTION - BOSTON. 'Coming Together', c/o I.F.G.E., P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 894-8340 (2pm - 10pm Mon - Sat)

MAY 4-6, 1990:
WEEKEND EN FEMME IN HOUSTON, Thorne & Associates, Box 441754, Houston, TX 77244

MAY 11-13, 1990:
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MAY & SEPTEMBER: PARADISE IN THE POCONOS Held the 3rd weekend of May and September. Creative Design Services, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406 (215) 640-9449.

MAY 29 - JUNE 3, 1990:
9th Annual TIFFANY CLUB'S P-TOWN OUTING. Tiffany Club,Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888 (508) 358-2305

JUNE 6-10, 1990:
8th Annual "BE ALL YOU WANT TO BE". Pittsburgh TransPitt, P.O. Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230

AUGUST (TBA), 1990:
4th annual MARDI GRAS (CANADA) Kandi Kane, Box 185, Perkinsfield, ON LOL 2J0 CANADA

OCTOBER 12-21, 1990:
16th Annual 'FANTASIA FAIR'. Fantasia Fair, Lincolnia Sta., P.O. Box 11254, Alexandria, VA 22312

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5th Annual TIFFANY CLUB WIVES SUPPORT GROUP OUTING. Couples only. TC-WSG, C/O P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888 (508) 358-2305

OCTOBER (TBA), 1990:
2nd annual INTER-GROUP HARMONY WEEKEND, Scarborough, England Martine Rose, P.O. Box 339, Sheffield S1 3SX England

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OCTOBER 27, 1990:
31th annual GGRC HALLOWEEN COSTUME BALL. Hollywood Palladium, 6215 Sunset Blvd, Hollywood, CA

NOVEMBER 1-4, 1990:
THE FALL HARVEST WEEKEND, & 'Moonshadow Ball'. CAF, Box 4092 Overland Park, KS 66204

NOVEMBER 14-18, 1990:
16th Annual HOLIDAY EN FEMME Heterosexual cross-dressers and their families. Tri-Ess/Holiday En Femme, P.O. Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

DECEMBER (TBA), 1990:
Annual MISS CGS PAGEANT. CGS, Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657

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DEFINITIONS $5.00
By Merissa Sherrill Lynn. An in-depth examination of primary terms ('transvestite', transsexual', etc.) and the econdary terms that affect our understanding of the primary terms. The emphasis is on communications rather than universally accepted definitions.

BEST OF THE TAPESTRY - RELIGION $5.00
A collection of editorials, articles, and letters dealing with the subject of cross-dressing and religion.

BEST OF THE TAPESTRY - TRANSSEXUALISM $10.00
A collection of editorials, articles, and letters dealing with the subjects of transsexualism and female-male crossdressing

BEST OF THE TAPESTRY - WIVES & SIGNIFICANT OTHERS $10.00
A collection of editorials, articles, and letters of special interest to wives and significant others of crossdressers.

BEST OF THE TAPESTRY - HORMONES $5.00
A collection of editorials, articles, and letters dealing with the subject of hormones.

THE TRANSVESTITE AND HIS WIVE, by Dr. Virginia Prince $10.00

UNDERSTANDING CROSSDRESSING, by Dr. Virginia Prince $11.00

HOW TO BE A WOMAN THOUGH MALE, by Dr. Virnina Prince $12.00

HANDBOOK FOR SPEAKERS ON CROSSDRESSING, by Dr. Virginia Prince $10.00

ART AND ILLUSION: A GUIDE TO CROSSDRESSING, by JoAnn Roberts $10.00

SPEAKING AS A WOMAN, by Alison Laing $8.00
A guide for those who desire to communicate in a more feminine manner.

THE SPIRIT AND THE FLESH, by Walter L. Williams $10.00 plus $2.50 P&H
Sexual diversity in American Indian culture.

TRANSVESTITES AND TRANSSEXUALS: Toward a Theory of Cross-Gender Behavior, by Dr. Richard F. Docter $35.00 plus $2.50 P&H
A "MUST" for anyone who owns a personal library on crossdressing. Represents 10 years of original research.

MY HUSBAND WEARS MY CLOTHES, by Peggy J. Rudd, Ed.D. $10.00 plus $1.50 P&H

TRANSFORMATIONS: CROSSDRESSERS AND THOSE WHO LOVE THEM, a photographic journal by Mariette Pathy Allen $24.95 plus $2.50 P&H

GENDER DYSPHORIA: DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH, MANAGEMENT, Edited by Betty W. Steiner, Clark Institute of Psychiatry $55.00 plus $2.50 S&H

GENDER BLENDING: CONFRONTING THE LIMITS OF DUALITY, by Holly Devor $13.00 plus $1.50 S&H
Holly examines the social construction of gender and its implications for the lives of gender blending females.

BODY PACKAGING: A GUIDE TO HUMAN SEXUAL DISPLAY, by Julian Robinson $27.00 plus $2.50 S&H
A copiously and stunningly illustrated book about body adornment in all its fascinating forms.

Please allow four to six weeks for delivery. Make checks and money orders payable to: "IFGE", P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 894-8340

TRI-ESS ENTERS NEW ERA

San Francisco, CA: At a meeting held on November 19, 1989, the Society for the Second Self marked three important changes in its structure.

The first change was a new Board of Directors was seated, replacing the former Board of Advisors. This change represents a shift from persons appointed by the Director to serve as advisors, to a body of officers with the power to set policy. Although the new Board of Directors was appointed, future members of the Board will be elected, which represents a shift from control by one person to a democracy, thereby ensuring the long-term survival and stability of the Tri Ess organization.

The second change was for the first time wives and significant others (SO's) were accorded membership. Until now, Tri Ess, an organization that places a high importance on the partners of crossdressers, had no provisions for allowing wives and SO's to participate as members. Frances Fairfax of the Tau Chi Chapter and Shirley Kay of the FIESTA Chapter, were instrumental in giving women full membership status. Their efforts were rewarded with their appointment to the Board of Directors, thereby making it clear that wives and significant others will have a continuing voice in the future of Tri Ess.

The third change was the Board adopted a new constitution. No fundamental changes were made, but the new document formalizes Tri Ess' structure, and adds long term stability to the organization.

The details to clarify these three changes, and the By-laws to carry out the new structure are currently being drafted.

IFGE ANNOUNCES NEW REBATE POLICY

The policy of offering $10.00 of each subscription to the organization of the subscriber's choice is no longer in effect. The policy simply did not achieve its objective, which was to provide a source of funding for non-profit organizations which would use the money for educational and outreach projects.

The new rebate policy is as follows:

(1) The rebate policy will remain intact, but reference to the policy will be removed from the regular subscription form.

(2) Only non-profit organizations with representatives to the IFGE Congress of Representatives will be eligible for rebates.

(3) A sales package for organizations to sell subscriptions and memberships will be sent to organizations. Rebates will then be treated as commissions.

(4) Each organization will be asked how they would like to have their rebate used. The choices are: A) Rebate returned to the organization. B) Rebated deposited in the IFGE General Operations Fund. C) Rebate deposited in the Christine Jorgensen Fund. D) Rebate deposited in the Foundation Trust Fund. E) Rebate deposited in the IFGE Programs Fund.

This policy will reduce the financial burden on IFGE and place the responsibility for selling subscriptions and memberships on the organizations. It will still put money into the hands of the non-profit organizations who want and need it, and put money to good use according to the wishes of the organizations who don't want or need it. It should also encourage organizations to earn their rebates, and to become involved with and supportive of something larger than themselves (the Congress, and our community as a whole).

- END -

ATTENTION: TRANSSEXUALS CONTEMPLATING SURGERY

Seattle, WA: Hot off the press! Ingersoll Gender Center has just published The Brussels Experience, a candid, practical guide to tram schedules, local menus, and sexual reassignment surgery in the colorful old world charm of Brussels, Belgium. This is an excellent, detailed day-by-day account of the real life experiences of three of our own sisters from Seattle: Caryn, Cathy, and Jennifer. It is told, however, in the format of a planning guide complete with maps of the city, samples of tram tickets and schedules, and packing lists of what to bring. It is also very candid about bodily functions, pain, stress, exhaustion, and emotions that any of us would experience in sexual reassignment surgery.

Dr. Michel Seghers has been performing successful male to female surgeries for years and is well known in the transsexual community. This guidebook will be invaluable for anyone contemplating surgery no matter which hospital you use. For copies of The Brussels Experience please write to:

Ingersoll Gender Center
1812 East Madison #50
Seattle, WA 98122

SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town, SA: The Phoenix Society of South Africa reports that two of its members, Joy Wellbeloved and Diane Marlene Knoetze, have each received a 'Golden Pen', a literary award presented annually by the Elaine Barrie Project of Australia. Marlene and Joy received their award for their joint authorship of the publication, 'The Transgender Phenomenon'.

'The Transgender Phenomenon' was then distributed free of charge to magazine and newspaper editors, members of the medical and legal professions, social workers, and others of influence and authority throughout South Africa. It has also been reprinted and distributed by a number of sister organizations overseas.

In recognition for their ongoing educational and outreach effort, the E.B.P. of Australia also presented the Phoenix Society a Certificate of Merit and a very handsome trophy. The citation read: "To the Phoenix Society of South Africa for their steadfastness, courage, and fortitude in the face of adversity." In a separate letter, Elaine Barrie added, "Your organization has done more for friendly relations than all of the people in high places. Your government could do worse than appoint every member of the Phoenix Society to the posts of overseas ambassadors."

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NYC

Mariette Pathy Allen announces that portraits from her superb photographic journal 'TRANSFORMATIONS: Crossdressers and Those Who Love Them' will be on display at the **SIMON LOWINSKY GALLERY**. The Gallery is located at 584 Broadway, in New York City (212-226-5440). The portraits will be on display from January through March, 1990.

WALTHAM, MA 12/89: The International Foundation for Gender Education announces the newest acquisition to its list of publications: **"BODY PACKAGING: A Guide to Human Sexual Display"**, by Julian Robinson.

'BODY PACKAGING' reveals what our clothing reveals -- about us.

We are all aware that the way in which we dress has the power to arouse us, to reassure us, to shock us. What few of us realize is that we ourselves are exercising that power and that every time we put on clothes we are giving signals to others about our sexuality and our own understanding of our place in society. 'BODY PACKAGING' is a copiously and stunningly illustrated book about body adornment in all its fascinating forms. It covers a lot of ground from codpieces and penile sheaths to high-heeled shoes and french knickers; from uniforms and bondage gear to wedding dresses, tail coats and jeans.

The book is controversial, visually exciting and designed and written to be unashamedly popular, but it also succeeds on another level. In the tradition of Desmond Morris and David Attenborough, this is a book written by an expert who has taken his subject out of the lecture hall and into the popular domain.

Although the book is intended to be useful, instructive, and entertaining for people of many different lifestyles, it is not specifically about cross-dressing. However, much of the content and the subject matter itself is of particular interest to members of the Gender Community.

Copies of "**BODY PACKAGING**" are available for **$27.00 + $2.50 Shipping & Handling = $29.50**. Make checks/money orders payable to: **IFGE**, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778.

IFGE ARCHIVES

Waltham, MA: IFGE is interested in building an archives for the gender community:

- **Books** (scholastic, biographical, literary, etc.)
- **Journals** (newsletters, collectibles [i.e. Transvestias], etc.)
- **Research Material** (legal case histories, news clippings, professional & medical presentations, articles, etc.)
- **Reference Material** (DSM-III, Standards of Care, etc.)
- **Instructional Material** ('How To' books, pamphlets, articles, etc.
- **Audio/Video** Tapes (Public appearances, lectures, etc.)

IFGE is looking for anything that is of historical, academic, and literary interest. All contributions are tax deductible.

Send to: **IFGE Library, c/o P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778**

HOST ORGANIZATIONS WANTED FOR FUTURE 'COMING TOGETHER CONVENTIONS

There is no question that ETVC did a terrific job as Host Organization for the 1989 'Coming Together' convention. In fact, they did such a terrific job that two organizations who had previously offered to serve as future hosts, withdrew their offers. The potential work load frightened them away. (ETVC had 18 months of planning and put over 60 people to work. No other organization wants to or is able to match that kind of effort.)

We now have a problem that affects our community as a whole. We want a convention that rotates between East, Midwest, West, North and South.... each time in a new city. That gives our people a chance to see new places and a chance to attend when distance would otherwise be prohibitive. It also gives us a chance to do outreach and public education in new areas. It also gives our community a chance to give support to organizations and services in different locations. It would be a sad situation indeed if we were restricted to Boston, Chicago, and San Francisco because they were the only cities with organizations strong enough or willing to serve as hosts.

Send your proposals, comments, and suggestions to: Betty Lee Johnson, Coordinator 'Coming Together', P.O. Box 122563, Fort Worth, TX 76121-2563 or to: Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Director 'Coming Together', P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

IFGE CONTRIBUTIONS:

LIVING MEMORIALS

(Living memorials are sent to I.F.G.E. in memory of departed sisters, brothers, family members, and friends. Some memorials and contributions become a part of the permanent Foundation Trust Fund. Other memorials are given to a specified fund. I.F.G.E. wishes to express its heartfelt thanks to the individuals, families, and organizations who saw fit to remember their loved ones with a contribution to I.F.G.E.'s memorial Funds. These contributions will provide a lasting memorial to the memory of these friends and members of our community.

The Christine Jorgensen Memorial Fund: This fund has been established to assist in the implementation of transsexual education objectives and to address other transsexual issues. I.F.G.E. acknowledges the following contributors:

Kay Metsker in memory of Mrs. George Pathy
J.R. Bouwens
Josephine Williamson
Winnie Brant
Jackie
Paul Deschenes
Janice Hillary Rupard

The I.F.G.E. Fund: Specially earmarked permanent and temporary contributions, unused rebates, etc. are deposited in this Fund. The income generated by the Fund will be used exclusively in service to our community. I.F.G.E. acknowledges the following contributors:

J. Roberti
Kay Metsker

I.F.G.E. wishes to thank those persons who have substantially contributed to its general operations. I.F.G.E. gratefully acknowledges the following members of the "500 CLUB" (for their accumulated gifts in the amount of $500.00 or more) and the members of the "1000 CLUB" (for their accumulated gifts in the amount of $1000.00 or more):

"500 CLUB"
Dominique Brown, Elizabeth Ashley Neal,
Joni Chrissiman, Nancy Coyle,
Mariette Pathy Allen, Eve Burchert

"1000 CLUB"
Josephine Williamson

-- COLLECTORS ITEMS --

a very limited stock of back issues of the original TRANSVESTIA MAGAZINE

Transvestia was one of the first and best non-erotic magazines for crossdressers ever published. Besides being collectors items, the Tranvestias contained a gold mine of information, history, true experiences, and letters; the kind of material that does not go out of date.

Virginia Prince announces she still has a stock of issues #67 through #100 (except #68, 69, 70, 71, 74, 75, 80, 81, and 85). She is willing to sell her Transvestias for:

$7.00 per issue, or **2 issues for $6.50 each, 3 issues for $6.00 each, 4 issues for $5.50 each, 5 or more issues for $5.00 each (Add $1.00 per book if you wish your order to be sent 1st class.)**

Since some issues may be sold out by the time you order, please indicate your choices in order of preference.

Please mail your order to: **Virginia Prince, Box 36091, Los Angeles, CA 90036**

Presenting

BOSTON '90

IFGE's 4th Annual

"COMING TOGETHER CONVENTION"
Our Community's Convention

at the beautiful Crowne Plaza Hotel
in Natick, Massachusetts

MARCH 27 - APRIL 1, 1990

For Information and Registration:
The International Foundation for Gender Education
P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778
(617) 894-8340
Offices: 6 Cushing St, Waltham, MA

Host Organizations:
Tiffany Club of New England,
and the TCNE Wives Support Group
P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888
(508) 358-2305

DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICES

(Updated December 1989)
(All listings sorted according to category and postal zip code)

(For insertions, corrections, and deletions: IFGE Directory, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778)
(New orgranizations, services, and individuals interested in forming new groups are welcome)

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION: I.F.G.E., Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778, (617) 894-8340. Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Director.

Nature: I.F.G.E. is a non-profit educational and service organization designed to serve as an effective communications medium, outreach device, and networking facility for the entire TV/TS Community and those affected by that Community.

Services: I.F.G.E. publishes the TV-TS Tapestry Journal and other publications relevant to the TV/TS theme. We sponsor an annual international convention. We serve as an international information and referral clearinghouse, speakers' bureau, and a safe, friendly "drop-in center" for emergency peer counselling and ongoing volunteer work.

TAPESTRY PUBLICATIONS: Tapestry, Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 899-2212 Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Director.

Nature: Tapestry Publications is a division of I.F.G.E.

Services: The TV/TS Tapestry is I.F.G.E's primary publication. We also publish and market a wide variety of how-to books, presentation transcripts, anthologies of pertinent reprints, directories, and other timely material. Tapestry Publications is designed as the gender community's own publishing house.

IFGE CONGRESS OF REPRESENTATIVES: Congress of Representatives, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 894-8340 Michael Lokovich, Coordinator

Nature: The Congress of Representatives are individuals selected by independent non-profit organizations, services, and chapters to represent the special interests of their organizations. Also, the representatives serve as the communications conduit between their organizations, the IFGE national headquarters, the IFGE Board of Directors, the IFGE national committees, and with other organizations.

TIFFANY CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND, Inc.: TCNE, Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888. (508) 358-2305. Ms. Roberta D., President

Nature: Tiffany is a non-profit social and educational organization for anyone desiring to explore and develop their total personality for the attainment of a peace of mind not otherwise possible. Tiffany provides support programs for the individual member, family, and friends.

Services: Tiffany services and activities include but are not limited to publishing the Rosebuds newsletter, operating a safe-house, and organizing "get-togethers", workshops, seminars, and beauty courses. Tiffany sponsors a formal Wives and Significant Others support group, an informal TS support group, parties, nights on the town, referrals, a speakers bureau, and group outings.

Security: Tiffany welcomes all mature and responsible persons who will exercise good manners, use common sense, and protect the security and peace-of-mind of all. Attendees must have met with and been cleared by a member of Tiffany's Screening Committee. Alternately, the applicant must present a letter of introduction from a qualified person to insure that the attendee understands Tiffany's objectives and will comply with Tiffany's code of conduct and security requirements.

TIFFANY CLUB WIVES SUPPORT GROUP: WSG, C/O Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888, (508) 358-2305. Toini McDonald, Director

Nature: Affiliated with the Tiffany Club. For those in a committed relationship with members in good standing at the Tiffany Club.

Services: Monthly meetings, one-on-one support, outings, and other events.

Security: See 'Tiffany Club'.

COUPLES SUPPORT GROUP: Couples Support Group, c/o P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 Kendall & Cheryl Blake, Co-Directors For information call: (617) 894-8340 or (617) 899-2212

Nature: A moderated rap group to encourage continuing open communication between two partners in a committed relationship where one partner is a cross-dresser.

Services: Scheduled meetings held on the 3rd Friday of each month, 8-10 p.m. at the IFGE headquarters, 6 Cushing St., Waltham, MA. No fees.

Security: Partners do not cross-dress for meetings. Newcomers welcome - please call ahead.

THE OUTREACH INSTITUTE: Outreach, Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215. Ariadne Kane, Dir. (617) 277-3454

Nature: The Outreach Institute is a non-profit educational corporation. Outreach works primarily with Helping Professionals from the fields of Education, Guidance and Counselling,

Therapy, Medicine, Law and Law Enforcement, Nursing, and Human Services.

Services: Outreach's programs include OPERN (Outreach Professional Evaluation and Referral Network), seminars and workshops, a newsletter, Fantasia Fair (a living/learning experience for both male and female crossdressers, transsexuals, and androgynes) and a book and publication service. A catalog of books and reprints is available for $5.00. Outreach also offers two information packets: one each for F-M and for M-F TSs at $25.00 each.

Security: Outreach's programs are highly sophisticated and strictly non-sexual. All participants in any Outreach program are expected to behave accordingly.

THE ADAM SOCIETY: The Adam Society, c/o Dan Riley, 6 Cushing St., 2nd Fl., Waltham, MA 02154

Nature: A non-profit support group for female-to-male crossdressers and transsexuals, and their significant others.

Services: Monthly meetings. Publishes Adam's Word.

Security: Inquire

RHODE ISLAND NEW HAMPSHIRE MAINE - VERMONT

TRANSSUPPORT: TransSupport, Box 17622, Portland, ME 04101. 1-207-854-3528 Diana Obidowski, President.

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, their families, and friends.

Services: Monthly meetings. Inquire for time and place. Publishes 'Trans-Talk' newsletter.

Security: Inquire

CONNECTICUT

THE XX (TWENTY) CLUB (Hartford, CT): The XX Club, Box 80690, Forest Park Station, Springfield, MA 01138. Veronica Jean Brown, Director

Nature: The XX Club is non-profit and non-sexual. It is a social, educational, medical, and outreach organization for persons interested in transsexualism. Friends and relatives are also welcomed, as are all those interested in or involved with the crossdressing community.

Services: The XX Club publishes a monthly newsletter. It holds two meetings each month (second and fourth Saturdays) at Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church Street, Hartford. The meetings include educational and medical presentations, outreach work, and information distribution. We also have social get-togethers, club parties, and other events.

Security: We place no security restrictions on people who wish to subscribe to our newsletter. However, any person wishing to attend our meetings must meet with and be cleared by a member of our screening committee, or present a letter of introduction from a qualified person to ensure that the attendee understands the XX Club's objectives and goals and that the individual will comply with security requirements and code of conduct. We request that all who attend our functions respect our anonymity.

THE CONNECTICUT VIEW: C/O Denise Mason, Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460.

Nature: "The View" is non-profit and non-sexual but respectful of its members' sexual preferences. Its objectives are to promote and propagate the friendship of the TV/TS community through education, support, and understanding of its members and their families.

Service: Punctual response to all communications, informative monthly newsletter, Wives Support Group, rap sessions, parties at various locations. Wig, makeup, clothing, and demeanor assistance available. Costs shared by participants.

Security: None. House parties on an invitational basis, bar parties open. All members are required to be discreet and tolerant of each other. Common sense and courtesy prevail.

HARRIET LANE'S TV SET: P.O. Box 4002, Wallingford, CT 06492 (203) 237-1968 (ask for Harriet Lane or Joanie Lassin)

Nature: Home parties for open-minded TVs, TGs, TSs, and their immediate spouse or friends.

Services: Meetings 2nd & 4th Saturday each month. Membership $100.00 per year. Key members $250.00 (store clothes & have key between 9 a.m. - 11 p.m.). Information on TV activities. Newsletter.

Security: All TVs etc. must dress at the clubhouse. Dressing room provided. Discretion required. Contact Harriet or Joanie for phone interview & personal meeting.

NEW JERSEY

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER: c/o Ms. Kimberly S. Grant, 7 Mill Road, Irvington, NJ 07111

Nature: Transsexual support group.

Services: Meetings.

Security: Inquire

F_2M: c/o S.G., Box 615, Tenafly, NJ 07670.

Nature: A non-profit social and support organization created by and for female-to-male transsexuals and crossdressers. "Knowledge is the key to the door of gender-reassignment. Up-to-date information is essential."

Services: Social events in the New York area, confidential contacts, a comprehensive resource directory, and a newsletter. Compiling information necessary to the F-M transition into a central database. F_2M actively solicits correspondence: questions, concerns, and all items of F-M TS information are requested.

Security: We believe that confidentiality, and often anonymity are critical issues for TSs on our mailing list. All correspondence is considered confidential.

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY: Ms. Lynda Frank, Box 9192, Morristown, NJ 07960; 201-663-0772.

Nature: Open membership, non-sexual.

Services: Get-togethers the last Saturday of each month at various locations in northern NJ. Ms. Frank now handles the TV-related affairs of the dissolved Pine Brook, NJ chapter as well.

Security: Interview required.

TRANSFORMATIONS, Reflections On Gender Roles And Religious/Spiritual Values: Joy Helms, P.O. Box 1355

Nature: A non-profit quarterly newsletter which addresses the relationship between issues relating to gender struggles and religious/spiritual values.

SIGMA NU RHO CHAPTER TRI-ESS: Sigma Nu Rho, P.O. Box 9255, Trenton, NJ 08650

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

RENAISSANCE - SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER: c/o Emily Sheldon, P.O. Box 4457, Greenville, DE 19807

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social & support organization serving the gender community.

Services: Meetings 1st Saturday each month.

Security: Inquire

NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY GENDER ALLIANCE: NYCGA, c/o Fem Fashions, 9 W 31st St, #7R, New York, NY 10001, 212-582-6823. Muriel Olive, Director.

Nature: Non-profit social organization for members and friends of the TV/TS community.

12-STEP RECOVERY PROGRAM: New York City (212) 867-8746 J.L. White

Nature: Alcohol & substance abuse recovery program for CDs & TSs.

Services: Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month

Security: Inquire

THE GATHERING: The Gathering, P.O. Box 29, New York, NY 10021 David Tolbin, Advisor

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual gender dysphoric support group devoted to assisting both males and females. Although membership is limited to persons who are TS, we invite TVs, TGs, and anyone seriously interested in gender dysphoria to attend our meetings.

Services: Meetings the 1st Sunday afternoon of every month to discuss common problems (meeting sites vary; inquire first), hear helping professionals, share experiences and information, and enjoy a pleasant social experience. Objectives include the development of a network of peer counsellors, distribution of pertinent literature, and resource guides to institutions and services. Publishes the "Passages" newsletter.

Security: Participation is open to all potential M-F and F-M pre-and post-operative transsexuals, friends, and relatives. Inquiry required.

EULENSPIEGEL SOCIETY: The Eulenspiegel Society, Box 2783 Grand Rapids Station, NYC, NY 10163, 212-477-6588.

Nature: For those with S/M and B/D fantasies. The oldest organization of its type.

Service: Frequent events specifically oriented toward the TV. Inquire for times and locations.

CHI DELTA MU CHAPTER, TRI ESS: Chi Delta Mu, P.O. Box 2162, Mt. Vernon, NY 10551 Terri White, President

Nature: See "Society for the Second Self".

Services: Get-togethers the 2nd Saturday of

each month in either northern New Jersey or southern Westchester County, NY. Very interested in attracting wives and girl friends. We have over 75 paid members, and have been in existence over five years.

Security: Private interview with Chapter President or qualified member.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT: Girls Night Out, P.O. Box 369, Brooklyn, NY 11235

Nature: An open social and support group for TV's, TS's, and friends.

Services: Monthly meetings in secure Manhattan location. Educational programs, advice and counseling. Partake in NYC nightlife. Dressing facilities available. Send S.A.S.E. for full information package.

Security: Inquire

LONG ISLAND FEMME EXPRESSION (LIFE): LIFE, Box 121, Ozone Park, NY 11416

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

GENDER JOURNAL: c/o Jennifer Wells, Box 1417, Troy, NY 12181.

Nature: Non-profit newsletter for M-F TVs.

Services: Includes articles on current events, common sense, observations, beauty tips, and related matters.

TRANSGENDERISTS' INDEPENDENCE CLUB (TGIC): TGIC, Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604, 518-436-4513 (Thursdays 7-9 p.m., or leave a message and instructions for calling back.)

Nature: Non-sexual group offering support to crossdressers, transsexuals, mates, wives, and families.

Services: Two monthly parties, weekly support group raps, monthly mates/wives support group, bi-monthly newsletter, shopping guide, key club, and storage.

Security: We have a screening process to ensure the comfort and safety of all. You may feel sure of anonymity and our discretion.

EON (Expressing Our Nature): EON, Box 6293, Camillus, NY 13031

Nature: EON is a non-profit, non-sexual social and educational peer support group. It is comprised mainly of committed couples, one of which is a cross-dresser.

Services: We have social get-togethers in a pleasant atmosphere at the home of one of our members. We also have non-dress discussion groups for our couples and friends. We have several shops available which cater to our members. We also have a very active wives support group.

Security: EON requires a screening by a member of their screening committee prior to invitation as a guest. If you would like to become a guest, please contact us through our P.O. box. We welcome all mature and responsible people who enjoy the company of friends who share a common interest. We emphasize good manners, lady-like behavior, support, and security for all.

CROSSROADS OF BUFFALO: Crossroads of Buffalo, c/o M.C.C. Buffalo, P.O. Box 163, Buffalo, NY 14209 (716) 883-5149

Nature: Non-profit support group for transsexuals and their partners or family.

Services: Meetings held 4th Sunday of each month at 4:00 p.m. West Avenue Presbyterian Church facilities, 104 West Ferry St., Buffalo. (Use basement door.)

Security: Inquire

TRANSVESTITES ANONYMOUS (TVA): TVA, P.O. Box 92055, Rochester, NY 14692

Nature: Non-profit social organization for crossdressers and other interested individuals.

Services: Meetings 2nd Friday each month from 7:00 - 11:00 p.m. Publishes 'CD News'.

Security: We have a screening person who meets with prospective members. We also control the membership list for security reasons.

PENNSYLVANIA

TRANSPITT: Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230.

Nature: TransPitt is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization with an open membership policy.

Services: Meetings the third Saturday of each odd-numbered month. Referrals.

Security: Meeting with Club officer.

LOWER SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY CHAPTER - RENAISSANCE: Renaissance LSV, Box 7412, York, PA 17404

Nature: Non-profit support group for the gender community at large.

Services: Monthly meetings and newsletter.

Security: inquire

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER - RENAISSANCE: Teri Kay, c/o Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020

Nature: Non-profit education and support for the gender community at large.

Services: Meetings 3rd Saturday of each month.

Security: Inquire

TRANSSEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP OF PHILADELPHIA: TS Support Group, P.O. Box 15836, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Denise Szetely, Director

Nature: A non-profit, non-political support group for are, have been, or think they may be transsexual. The purpose of the group is to ease the loneliness, the feeling of uniqueness, and to provide hope through open-mindedness on a common ground of mutual respect. The thrust of the group is geared toward the whole person, not just their sex or gender, but rather all aspects-physical, mental, emotional, and physical.

Services: Our group meets the 1st Saturday and 3rd Wednesday of each month at Dignity House, 252 South 12th Street, Philadelphia, PA. We have raps, workshops, and other events. Fees: $20.00 per year. No person is turned away due to affectional status or inability to pay.

RENAISSANCE: Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406. (215) 640-9449 (after 6:30 EST.)

Nature: Renaissance is a non-profit, non-sexual organization dedicated to the support and education of the transgendered community and the general population. It is an open group that accepts without judgement and helps individuals to grow at their own pace.

Services: For TVs and TSs. Monthly meetings with educational programs, Significant Other Support Group, Transsexual Support Group, TV rap groups, a monthly newsletter, and community activities. Call the Help Line 24 hours a day for information on the latest activities.

For professionals: Speakers Bureau with experienced and accomplished lecturers for college, university, radio, and television appearances anywhere in the US. Renaissance also publishes a series of Background Papers to help professionals and clients to understand transgender behavior.

Security: There is no screening process for prospective members. All member personal information is strictly confidential and available only to the Board of Directors.

READING CHAPTER - RENAISSANCE: Susan Marshall, Box 14221, Reading, PA 19607

Nature: Non-profit education and support group for the gender community.

Services: Meeting schedule not available. Inquire.

Security: Inquire

MARYLAND - DELAWARE - DC VIRGINIA - WEST VIRGINIA

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON: R. Lewis, Box 80724, Washington, DC 20004-0724.

Nature: Non-profit social organization for members of the TV/TS community.

BALTIMORE CHAPTER TRI-ESS: c/o Tri-Ess, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Inquire.

JANUS/DC: c/o H. Martin Malin, PhD, 4835 Del Ray Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Nature: Transsexual support. Not to be confused with the Society of Janus, a California S/M group with chapters having similar names.

GENDER IDENTITY OUTREACH CENTER USA: c/o Gary, Box 133, Westminster, MD 21157. Gary Fannin, Dir.

Nature: A non-profit nationwide support system for all transgender persons.

Services: A 24-hr hotline with TDD access for the hearing impaired and deaf. Monthly right-to-know workshops on issues pertinent to crossdressers. A monthly publication "The TV's Guide" and a "three for free" condom distribution center for the crossdressing community with an AIDS outreach program specifically designed for crossdressers.

Security: Open to all persons interested in transgender issues and the TV/TS liberation movement. All information is kept strictly confidential and available to the center's director.

MY CHOICE: c/o Shana Roberts, 7 S. Broadway, Baltimore, MD 21231 301-327-0061

Nature: We are a non-profit support group for TV's and TS's.

Services: We hold monthly meetings at a downtown church on Sunday evenings. Support and advice are given. We have a registered social worker qualified in TG issues at every meeting. We usually go out socializing after meetings. Shopping, make-up and coming-out help available.

Security: Interview by phone or in person required before attendance of meetings. Phone and address list available only to Shana Roberts and Kathy Lyn, who heads up our TS department.

DELTA CHI EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (DCEA): DCEA, P.O. Box 16036, Arlington, VA 22215

Nature: Social/support group for TVs, TSs, and their significant others.

Services: Social activities, meetings one a month. Publishes "The Pinnacle" newsletter.

Security: Inquiry needed.

NORTH CAROLINA SOUTH CAROLINA GEORGIA - FLORIDA

KAPPA BETA - TRI ESS: Kappa Beta, P.O. Box 12101, Charlotte, NC 28220

Nature: Social support group for male heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others. Serving the Carolinas and Southern Virginia.

Services: Monthly meetings August to May, usually in Charlotte. Monthly newsletter, The Dixie Belle, $15.00 per year.

Security: Interview with Board member. Must be eligible to join (i.e., be a current member of Tri-Ess).

PHOENIX TRANSGENDER SUPPORT: Phoenix, P.O. Box 18332, Asheville, NC 28814

Nature: Non-profit TV/TS support group. Significant others and friends welcome.

Services: Irregularly scheduled meetings. Inquire for time and location. 1 on 1 meetings if requested.

Security: Good manners, common sense, protect the security and peace of mind of all.

THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE: Box 16314, Atlanta, GA 30321.

Nature: A newsletter written by and about transsexuals. $2.00 per copy; $12.00 per year.

THE MONTGOMERY FOUNDATION, INC.: Gender Dysphoric Association, Box 33311, Decatur, GA 30033.

Nature: Strictly a support group for F-M and M-F pre- and post-op transsexuals. No fees.

Services: Referrals, rap sessions, and programs designed for the needs of the transsexual.

CENTRAL FLORIDA SISTERS (or PHI EPSILON MU): c/o Dale Larson, 2022 Ernest St., Kissimmee, FL 34741

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others.

Services: Meetings 1st Saturday of each month.

Security: Screening before attendance. Good manners and common sense.

ORLANDO CHAPTER, TRI-ESS: c/o Tri-Ess, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Inquire.

SERENITY: Serenity, Box 307, Hollywood, FL 33022. 305-966-2138 (8:30-10:30 a.m., 9:00-11:30 p.m.)

Nature: Social/support group for TVs, TSs, and their significant others.

Services: Meetings 2nd Friday of each month at the Church of the Holy Spirit (MCC), 330 SW 27th St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Newsletter.

Security: Inquire.

BLOSSOM'S SAFE HOUSE: Blossom C. Paster, 28417 Trident Court, Wesley Chapel, FL 34249. (813) 973-0987.

Nature: A private setting where CDs can take their wardrobe, makeup, questions, and problems.

Services: Peer counselling, problem solving, dressing, electrology, and makeup advice by a longtime professional member of the Gender Community. There is a nominal fee.

Security: Call or write.

ALABAMA - MISSISSIPPI TENNESSEE - KENTUCKY

SIGMA EPSILON - TRI ESS: Sigma Epsilon, P.O. Box 339, Helena, AL 35080

Nature: Social and support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

Security: Inquire

BETA CHI CHAPTER OF TRI-ESS IN MISSISSIPPI: Beta Chi, P.O. Box 31253, Jackson, MS 39206-1253 Hotline: (601) 982-7678 (24 hrs). Lee Frances, Secretary

Nature: Social support group for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA. Publishes "Premiere" newsletter.

Security: Inquire.

OHIO INDIANA - MICHIGAN

CRYSTAL CLUB: Crystal Club, P.O. Box 287, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-0287

Nature: An open support group for TV, TS, and others who cross-dress with a full feminine identity. We provide a non-threatening environment for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Meetings the 4th Saturday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with a meeting fee of $15.00. Peer support, newsletter. Buyers guide in preparation. We cooperate with neighboring organizations such as Alpha Omega, Paradise, and Cross-Port. Publishes The Crystal Chronical.

Security: Inquire. Include a brief biography of yourself, and tell them where you heard about us.

ALPHA OMEGA CHAPTER, TRI-ESS: Alpha Omega, Box 954, Elyria, OH 44036

Nature: A social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their families.

Services: Bi-monthly meetings. Publish the Alpha Omega Outreach newsletter.

Security: Membership and attendance at a meeting requires the approval of a qualified Alpha Omega officer.

PARADISE CLUB: Paradise, P.O. Box 29564, Parma, OH 44129.

Nature: Paradise is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization with an emphasis on friendship and support, especially for wives. Paradise has approximately 90 members, with an average of 50+ in attendance at each meeting.

Services: Paradise publishes a newsletter (Paradise Tales), and sponsors a meeting every other month with a catered dinner and usually a special event such as a speaker, make-up advice, a show, or other event of interest.

Security: Paradise welcomes all mature and responsible. We place emphasis on manners, common sense, and the security of all.Membership is offered only after a personal interview with an officer. Non-members may attend meetings with the concurrence of an officer. Open membership, but all members must be crossdressers, and must dress at meetings.

CROSS-PORT: Box 12701, Cincinnati, Ohio 45212 1-513-851-6174

Nature: Cross-Port is a non-profit, non-sexual organization for the male-to-female and the female-to-male crossdresser and transsexual, and supportive friends regardless of sexual preference, practices, or orientation.

Services: Cross-Port distributes a monthly newsletter to all members.

Security: All guests and members are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen. Common sense is the rule. The mailing and membership lists are confidential. No member shall reveal the true name, address, telephone number, or profession of any other member to anyone, except with the other member's express permission.

INDIANA CROSSDRESSERS SOCIETY (Iota Chi Sigma): IXE, Box 20710, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

Nature: A non-profit TV/TS social/support group.

Services: We currently have about 20 members and have been meeting monthly in Indianapolis. Our BBS is up and running! Dial (317) 784-6975, select "KINKY BBS", leave E-Mail for "BOBBI ALYSON" or "SYSOP".

Security: Inquire.

CROSSROADS CHAPTER: Club address: Crossroads, c/o , Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1245. Milesa Phar, President. Business address: Box 1298, Flint, MI 48501. Phone messages: 313-446-0782.

Newsletter Editor: Karyn & Laura I., Box 40715, Redford, MI 48240.

Nature: Crossroads is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization emphasizing friendship, support, and the peace of mind of all. Crossroads has a formal membership of approximately 90 and an informal membership of approximately 250.

Services: Crossroads publishes a newsletter (Crossroads Chatter) and sponsors both formal and casual social activities. We provide referrals to other organizations nationwide, and to helping professionals in the Great Lakes area. We also investigate agencies, businesses, and organizations, and do considerable outreach work and publicity for the paraculture.

Security: Crossroads welcomes all mature and responsible people, and emphasizes good manners, common sense, and the security of all.

CROSSROADS OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN: See Crossroads Chapter, above.

CROSSROADS SPEAKERS BUREAU: Milesa Phar, Box 196, Garden City, MI 48135.

NATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT GROUP: N.G.D.O, P.O. Box 02732, Detroit, MI 48202 (313) 842-5258. Justina Williams, President.

Nature: N.G.D.O. is a non-profit support/educational organization for the gender dysphoric (transsexual) community, and crossdressers.

Services: Publishes The N.G.D.O. Keys to Freedom, referrals to compassionate helping professionals, and support groups which are separated as to sexual orientation. We also offer a discrimination committee.

Security: Names and addresses are confidential. Meetings held in a safe location.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CROSSDRESSERS: NAC, P.O. Box 497, Flint, MI 48501 Grace Bacon, Dir.

Nature: An organization dedicated to education and outreach.

Services: Publishes and distributes the informational pamphlet "An Overview of Crossdressing, Transvestism, and Transsexualism".

I.M.E. OF WESTERN MICHIGAN: Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI 49501.

Nature: Social, support, and educational group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others, regardless of sexual orientation.

Services: Social outlet of the Cross Dresser. Mail forwarding. We have the services of a MSW social worker free of charge to members. Lectures and referrals. Monthly meetings and socials.

Security: All member files are strictly confidential. Prospective members must sign a pledge of confidentiality.

IOWA - WISCONSIN MINNESOTA - NO. DAKOTA SO. DAKOTA - MONTANA

IOTA ALPHA CHAPTER, TRI ESS: Iowa Artistry, Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406.

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Services: Inquire.

MINNESOTA FREEDOM OF GENDER EXPRESSION: MFGE, Box 17945, St. Paul, MN 55117.

Nature: An open service and peer support group for trans-gender persons, their significant others, and interested persons.

Services: Newsletter, peer support, services listings for members.

Security: Interview required, confidential membership listings used for newsletter and related organizational mailings only.

CITY OF LAKES CROSSGENDER COMMUNITY (CLCC): Box 16265, Minneapolis, MN 55416. (612) 933-5288.

Nature: Monthly meetings. The group's purpose is to provide a comfortable social setting for cross-dressers to meet like-minded folks. We are a non-sexual group when together; however, personal orientation is not considered when newcomers apply to join us.

Security: A personal interview before coming to the first party.

ILLINOIS

CHI CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Box 40, Wooddale, IL 60191-0040. Hot Line: 708-364-9514

Nature: Chicago Chapter of the Society for the Second Self, a non-profit organization for heterosexual crossdressers.

Services: Social activities, a support group for wives and girlfriends, a help line, newsletter, library, speakers bureau, and co-sponsor of "Be All You Want To Be" weekend. Meetings the 3rd Saturday of each month, annual family picnic, Awards Banquet, Christmas Party.

Security: Inquire.

THE SUNDAY SOCIETY: The Sunday Society, P.O. Box 47056, Chicago, IL 60647 (312) 486-3125 Sheila L. Sampognaro or Louise L. Raeder

Nature: Non-profit transsexual outreach and support organization.

Services: Meetings the 3rd Sunday of each month 6-8 p.m. Monthly newsletter "Trans-World Bulletin" (subs. $20.00 per year). Computer bulletin board "The Sunday Society US TOO BBS" 7 nights a week from 10:00pm to 12:00am or by request. 2400, 1200, or 300 baud, 8-N-1 color, mono, or no graphics.

Security: Telephone interview required to attend meetings.

CHICAGO GENDER SOCIETY: CGS, Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657. (312) 975-8412

Nature: Non-profit social and educational support group for TVs, TSs, their significant others, and supportive friends.

Services: Professional referrals, business and social events several times a month, annual Miss CGS Pageant, picnics, mail forwarding, monthly newsletter.

Security: Inquire.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS GENDER ASSOCIATION (CIGA): CIGA, P.O. Box 126, Washington, IL 61571

Nature: A new group (first meeting in March 1989) for TVs, TSs, CDs, and SOs.

Services: Social functions and personal growth support.

Security: Write for details.

MISSOURI - KANSAS NEBRASKA - ARKANSAS

ST LOUIS GATEWAY FEMMES: SLGF, Box 1262, St. Louis, MO 63188.

Nature: A social/support group for the TV/TS Community and interested professionals. Provides members the opportunity to dress at meetings, share experiences, improve feminine abilities, and give each other the support we all need. Meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each even numbered month.

Services: A bi-monthly newsletter, the Gateway Femmes Gazette, club business cards, and a membership directory

GEMINI TWO: Gemini, 418 Linn St., Leavenworth, KS 66048 Ms Becky Gail Croslove, Dir.

Nature: Non-prohibitive CD/TV club meeting the needs of CD/TV's and wives. Singles also welcome. Non-sexual.

Services: Monthly meetings, referrals, good down to earth advise and an attentive ear when necessary.

Security: Meeting with member before attendance.

CROSSDRESSERS AND FRIENDS: c/o Randi Campbell, Box 4092, Overland Park, KS 66204.

Nature: Support for crossdressers and friends.

Services: Inquire.

Security: Inquire.

GENDER DYSPHORIA SUPPORT: Gender Dysphoria Support, P.O. Box 15561, Shawnee Mission, KS 66215 (913) 371-0658 Anne Osborn, Facilitator

Nature: Social/support group for people who are in transition, or have changed gender.

Services: Provides peer group support for people in and post transition, and their significant others. Dedicated to providing services to F-M's and M-F's equally. Open to people of all sexual orientations. Meet Friday evenings.

Security: Contact Anne

RIVER CITY: Box 1305, Belleview, NE 68005.

Nature: Non-profit educational, support, and social group for TVs, TSs, and significant others.

Services: We currently have about 20 members, meet monthly in Omaha, and have a newsletter "The Transformer". We network with other groups and sisters. We work with local helping professionals, perform outreach, and maintain files of educational and resource material including listings of local services.

Security: Inquire.

RHO CHI RHO CHAPTER - TRI ESS: River City Ruffles, Box 24060, Omaha, NB 68124-0060

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

LOUISIANA TEXAS - OKLAHOMA

TRI DELTA CHI, TRI ESS: Tri Delta Chi, Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187-1300

Nature: New Orleans chapter of the Society for the Second Self serving members in southeast Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and northwest Florida. We are in the growing stage and are publishing newsletters and holding meetings on a sporadic basis. This is an organization for heterosexual crossdressers and their wives/S.O.'s, and is primarily a "social" support group.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Mailing list for newsletter is open, for a fee of $5.00 yearly. Attendance at meetings and functions requires screening by Board.

DELTA OMEGA CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Delta Omega, P.O. Box 1021, Arlington, TX 76004-1021

Nature: Social, for heterosexual TVs and their significant others. Serving the transgender community of the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Services: Social activities; publish The Texas Rose newsletter.

Security: Membership and attendance requires an interview with a chapter officer.

GULF COAST TRANSVESTITE CHAPTER: GCTC, P.O. ox 90335, Houston, TX 77090

Nature: Social support group for CDs, TSs, and SOs.

Services: Inquire

Security: Inquire

TAU CHI CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Tau Chi, Box 533, Richmond, TX 77469

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Membership and attendance requires an interview with the chapter president.

BOULTON AND PARK SOCIETY: Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280-3252. Hotline: 512-657-2540

Nature: open, non-profit, non-sexual. Social and peer support plus local information for transsexual, transvestic, and transgendered folks, their families and friends.

Services: Meetings, newsletter (Gender Euphoria), business directory, outreach to helping professionals, plus a national outreach program for individuals referred to us.

Services: You are expected to be mature enough to exist with others in social situations, exercising good manners and good sense in protecting the security and peace of mind of all. Before attending your first soiree you must meet with a designated member. If we aren't comfortable with you, you won't be invited to attend.

WOMEN ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSGENDERED SUPPORT (W.A.T.S.): Boulton & Park - W.A.T.S., P.O. Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280-3252 or, W.A.T.S., c/o Cynthia Phillips, P.O. Box 17, Bulverde, TX 78163

Nature: A women's support group devoted to the primary goal of exploring women's feelings, concerns, and attitudes about crossdressing. Affiliated with Boulton & Park.

Services: We meet 3:00 pm the 2nd Saturday of each month at the home of Cynthia Phillips. No fee.

Security: Inquire

HEART OF TEXAS TV: HTTV, Box 402, Austin, TX 78767 (512) 892-6454. Edwina Wilson, president.

Nature: A social and support group for CDs, TSs, their families and friends. Emphatically NOT a therapy group or gay dating service.

Services: Meetings the 3rd saturday of every month (dressing not required). Anyone with an interest in crossdressing is welcome to inquire. Publishes a quarterly newsletter "Cross Currents".

Security: Interested persons must complete a questionnaire and be interviewed.

COLORADO - UTAH WYOMING - IDAHO

GENDER IDENTITY CENTER OF COLORADO, INC. (G.I.C.): Box 11563, 3715 32nd Avenue, Denver, CO 80211; 303-458-5378

Nature: A non-profit, tax-exempt, educational and affiliative organization designed to provide a public service to the community.

Services: G.I.C. provides information and education on the issues of cross-dressing and gender conflict through a library of books and journal articles, rap sessions, workshops and seminars, and guest speakers from various areas of the community. These areas include medical, legal, insurance, personal grooming, male and female appearance and behaviors, and other related matters. G.I.C. also provides a Speaker's Bureau and a 24-hour hotline.

DELTA CHAPTER TRI-ESS (Denver): Delta Chapter, c/o Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275 (temporary mailing address).

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

THE INTERNATIONAL GENDER EDUCATION RESPONSE: TIGER, Box 17442, Denver, CO 80217.

Nature: Non-profit legal advocacy task force for the crossdressing and transsexual community.

Services: Building and utilizing a legal defence fund to fight for your right to crossdress. All donations are gratefully accepted. Affiliated with ETVC of San Francisco.

ALPHA RHO, SALT LAKE CITY CHAPTER, TRI-ESS: Alpha Provesta, Box 26711, Salt Lake City, UT 84126

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Inquire.

ARIZONA NEW MEXICO - NEVADA

A ROSE: A Rose, Box 4351, Scottsdale, AZ 85261.

Nature: A non-sexual support group for TVs, TSs, their wives, friends, and relatives.

Services: Social activities, meetings, educational programs. Publishes 'A Rose News' monthly newsletter.

Security: Inquire

ALPHA ZETA CHAPTER TRI-ESS: Alpha Zeta, Box 24459, Tempe, AZ 85285-4459

Nature: A support group for heterosexual crossdressers, and their significant others.

Services: Social activities, monthly meetings. Publishes "The Cactus Flower' newsletter.

Security: Before attending, and interview with a chapter officer is required.

PHI CHAPTER - TRI ESS (FIESTA): Phi Chapter, Box 1842, Farmington, NM 87499.

Nature: The New Mexico chapter of Tri-Ess.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

OTRAS AMIGAS: Otras Amigas, P.O. Box 44082, Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Nature: We are an open, egalitarian, non-sexual, creative group seeking to combine personal growth and fun interaction with "other friends." We wish to work together to provide innovative opportunities for living out the natural enjoyments that we share.

Services: Outreach and educational services are our goals as well as networking with the local TV/TS support group and Fiesta Tri-Ess Chapter.

Security: Amigas welcomes all mature and responsible persons who will use good judgment and common sense for the benefit of each other's well being.

DOUBLE IMAGE: Box 71795, Las Vegas, NV 89170-1795

Nature: A non-profit support group for TVs, TSs, crossdressers, and family.

Services: Inquire.

Security: Inquire.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

AMERICAN TRANSSEXUAL EDUCATION CENTER: A.T.E.C, 1626 N. Wilcox Avenue, Suite 584, Hollywood, CA 90028 (213) 469-4709 Amanda Silvestri, Director

Nature: A non-profit organization serving the transgender and transsexual community.

Services: Confidential and non-judgmental telephone crisis and personal counseling, referrals to support groups in your area, electrologists, medical and psychological help, speakers, and a newsletter.

Security: Open

ALPHA CHAPTER TRI-ESS: c/o Charlene Day, Box 3501, Arcadia, CA 91006 (213) 876-6141

Nature: Social and support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

CROSSDRESSER HETEROSEXUAL INTERSOCIAL CLUB (CHIC): CHIC, Box 562, Duarte, CA 91009. Information/Speakers Bureau: 714-993-7142

Nature: CHIC is for heterosexual transvestites or crossdressers only, their wives, professional people (MDs, psychologists, teachers, etc.), and friends. We are a local Southern California organization. We offer support and friendship, and stress security and good manners.

Services: We sponsor meetings, parties, monthly dinners, and seminars on make-up, wigs, clothes, and other topics of interest. We publish a monthly newsletter (CHIC Clippings) and sponsor educational programs for the public. Meetings held 2nd Saturday night of each month.

Security: Meetings are closed except to members and approved guests. All guests must be screened and approved by two Board members and (if a home meeting) the hostess. Prospective members must apply with a written application, be interviewed by two members of the Membership Committee, and then approved by the Board of Directors. CHIC emphasizes strict security for all its members and guests.

THE VALLEY GIRLS: The Valley Girls, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills, CA 91365 818-348-2523

Nature: Non-profit support group for TVs and other cross-gendered individuals.

Services: Monthly meetings & socials, workshops, rap sessions. Publishes "Cross-Talk".

Security: Names and addresses used only for internal roster and club mailings; access only by club officers. All members are expected to honor all confidences placed in them by other members. Contact President for information about attending meetings.

FEMININE IMAGE: c/o Alicia, Box 1771, Ontario, CA 91762; 619-244-4481

Nature: TV/TS club offering support, problem solving regardless of your sexual preference or practices.

Services: Meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Social activities and group outings. Novices welcome.

Security: High regard for discretion.

IOTA EPSILON ("INLAND EMPIRE"): Donna Martin, P.O. Box 245, West Covina, CA 91793

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

Security: Inquire

NEUTRAL CORNER: Neutral Corner, Box 12581, San Diego, CA 92112. TV/TS information line 236-1586

Nature: A self-help group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their families. Its purpose is to help its members live a normal and productive life.

Services: Serving San Diego County with social and educational programs, a communication network, monthly meetings, membership consulting, wives' and families' input, a buyer's guide, and a list of helping professionals.

Security: Inquire.

OMEGA CHI TRI-ESS (Orange County, CA): Omega Chi, Box 9091, Anaheim, CA 92802.

Nature: social support group for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

POWDER PUFFS OF ORANGE COUNTY (PPOC): PPOC, P.O. Box 9091, Anaheim, CA 92812 Hotline: (714) 779-9013 weekdays 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Nature: Open non-sexual social club for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Security: Interview by club officer.

CHI CHI CHI: Chi Chi Chi, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

Nature: Social and support group for crossdressers and their significant others.

Security/Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF: Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Nature: Tri-Ess is a non-profit organization exclusively for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Tri Ess provides a correspondence directory, a directory of commercial services, a magazine (the Femme Mirror), and chapters throughout the US.

Security: Membership in Tri Ess is open to heterosexual TVs only. Membership and attendance at a local chapter meeting requires an interview with the chapter president or older member to insure that the applicant is heterosexual and will comply with the Tri Ess code of conduct.

GENDER COMMUNITY ADVOCATES: GCA, c/o Ms. Tauria Linala, 512 W. Evergreen, Santa Maria, CA 93454; 805-922-1309 (9am - 5pm PST Mon - Thurs)

Nature: GCA is a non-profit educational project established to provide services by and for the Gender Community. Open to all.

Services: Local support group serving Central California. Information, referrals, support and peer counseling. Gender and sex information; referrals for medical and professional support, personal care, correspondence and peer-linking. International contacts. Peer counselling by telephone and/or appointment. Donations and contributions are welcome and tax-deductible.

Security: Confidential and non-judgmental.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

EDUCATIONAL TV CHANNEL (ETVC): ETVC, P.O. Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101

Nature: ETVC is a delightful group of TVs, TSs, Significant Others, and friends. It is intended as a social and educational group, to meet and to have a good time as well as educate the public. ETVC is non-sexual, and has an open membership policy with over 400 members.

Services: ETVC publishes the ETVC Newsletter, and provides a program of social and educational programs, and referrals.

Security: The mailing and membership lists are confidential. Only the officers are permitted access to these lists, except in the case of judicial process. No member shall reveal the true name, address, telephone number, or profession of another member to anyone, except with the other members' express permission.

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS SUPPORT: SOS, c/o ETVC, Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Nature: Affiliated with ETVC. An educational and support organization for the "significant others" of crossdressers and transsexuals.

Services: Meetings and a newsletter.

Security: See ETVC.

GENDER IDENTITY ANONYMOUS: No mailing address available.

Nature: A non-judgmental transgender support group.

Services: Meetings every Thursday in the Science of Mind room at 3255 Balboa Street (near 34th Avenue), San Francisco.

FEMALE-TO-MALE: F_2M, 1827 Haight Street #164, San Francisco, CA 94117; 415-626-5824, ask for Lou.

Nature: Support group exclusively for female-to-male crossdressers, TSs, and their significant others.

Services: Inquire.

Security: Inquire.

THURSDAY IRREGULARS: Joan Sheldon, Box 7205, San Jose', CA 75150-7205.

Nature: For nearly 7 years a group of TVs and their friends have met every Thursday for lunch. An informal discussion group and meeting of good friends. Participants come as their "male" selves.

Security: The group is very security conscious, so inquire about requirements.

RAINBOW GENDER ASSOCIATION: Box 700730, San Jose', CA 95170

Nature: Formerly San Jose' Chapter, GGA. Non-profit, non-sexual social/support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others regardless of their gender or sexual orientation.

Services: Our objective is to provide a safe and welcome place for male-to-female and female-to-male transsexuals, transvestites, and their significant others to get together with like-minded individuals. Attendance at all RGA functions is open to all regardless of gender. We also promote the complete development of RGA members as complete men and women through emotional support and education. We reach out to all transsexuals and transvestite in an effort to help them accept and make peace with themselves. We publish a newsletter and sponsor social programs, peer support, outreach work, and public education. Visitors are welcome.

SOCIETY OF JANUS - SACRAMENTO GROUP: c/o Box 13852, Sacramento, CA 95838-3582

Nature: JANUS provides a forum on the erotic arts of S/M, dominance/submission (D/S), and bondage and discipline (B/D) in a supported and unloaded atmosphere. This is where people can share practical information and ideas, feelings, health and safety information, etc. JANUS offers education to the general public about the S/M community and to the S/M community about itself. All activities must be safe, sane, and consensual.

Services: Monthly program meetings feature guest speakers and general rap sessions. Member involvement is a vital part of the success of this group.

Security: All membership lists and mailings are kept in strictest confidence.

SACRAMENTO GENDER ASSOCIATION (Blue Rose Chapter): SGA, c/o Jennifer Richards, Box 417701, Sacramento, CA 95841. 916-362-8131 (9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. PST only. Ask for Stephanie)

Nature: SGA ia a non-sexual organization open to all TVs, TGs, TSs, Significant Others, and any other friends who will respect each person's right to self-expression. SGA ia an educational, social, and support group.

Services: Monthly 7:00 PM meetings on the fourth Saturday of each month at Joseph's Town & Country Inn, 2060 Aubum Blvd, Sacramento. There may be a guest speaker, rap session, or a general "get-acquainted" theme. SGA publishes a bi-monthly newsletter.

Security: All mailing and membership lists are kept confidential. Only certain officers have access.

HAWAII - OREGON WASHINGTON - ALASKA

NORTHWEST GENDER ALLIANCE: NWGA, Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208.

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual social organization serving the crossdressing community.

Services: The Northwest Chapter has at least one function a month. The days vary in order to enable all of our girls to attend as often as possible. We also publish a monthly newsletter.

Security: Private interview with the chapter president.

CAPITOL CITY CHAPTER: Capitol City Chapter, P.O. Box 3312, Salem, OR 97302

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers, transsexuals, and significant others.

Services: Support rap sessions, social events, assistance available for wig, make-up, clothing and demeanor. Monthly meetings.

Security: Individuals will be screened prior to meeting with group.

SALMACIS: The Equalitarian Feminist Social Society, Box 1604, Eugene, OR 97440-1604. Sally Ann Douglas, Social Director; Leslie-Shawn Witham, hypnotherapist; 502-688-4282 (Sally Ann, 6-11 PM PST)

Nature: Salmacis is a social and service society devoted to the concept of feminism, supporting all those who are or desire to become women.

Services: Direct telephone counseling, contact with others with similar interests, contact with our central organization and other organizations, and personal growth workshops. Also publish Femmes Together and The Equalitarian Feminist. The Salmacis Social Society meets the 3rd Monday of every month, 8PM at the Riv, 39 W. 10th St., Eugene, OR.

SALISHON, The Womyn's Information Network: Box 1604, Eugene, OR 97440-1604; Leslie-Shawn Witham, Director.

Nature: A service and information network for womyn who perceive themselves living an alternative lifestyle.

Services: The only femininity clinic for males and she-males that is run by a staff of professional women.

EMERALD CITY: Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103. Janice Van Cleve, Secretary

Nature: The Emerald City is a non-profit, non-sexual organization providing social and educational services for the transvestite community of Seattle and the Northwest. Promotes positive public image in the media, in the professions, and in the business community. Provides assistance and opportunities for public presentation as well as private parties and good friendships. An independent organization, but works closely with the Ingersoll Gender Center and the Seattle Counselling Service.

Services: At least three functions each month with variety to accommodate most tastes and budgets. Constantly updated listing of acceptable vendors and contacts to a wide variety of products and services. Monthly newsletter and educational services.

Security: Must be sponsored by an active, participating member or attend the TV/TS Support Group at the Seattle Counselling Service and be accepted by an Emerald City officer. Mailing lists are strictly confidential.

THE BERDACHE SOCIETY: c/o Kyndel Fay Mercedes, Box 113162, Anchorage, AK 99511. Nora Jean York, Co-founder

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual, social, educational, and referral organization serving the TV/TS community. Supports the concept that gender and sexual identity operate on separate but parallel continuum with unity of the individual and freedom of expression and growth our primary focus. (Sumus Quod Sumas)

Services: Publishes a monthly newsletter "Satin and Lace". Monthly meetings and social functions in a safe and supportive environment. Educational and personal growth programs. Wives and significant others support group. Mental health and medical referrals.

Security: All guests and members are expected to conduct themselves in a mature, responsible, and respectful manner. Membership is by committee after interview by chairperson or letter of referral. Anyone may receive the newsletter.

CANADA

QUEBEC TRANSSEXUALS AID, INC.: ATQ, Inc., Viviane Belanger, 84 Boul. des Allies, Quebec, Canada G1L 1Y2 418-648-1633.

Nature: French speaking transsexual support.

Services: Meetings, medical referrals, and related services.

FACT - QUEBEC: c/o Mrs. Patricia Fisher, Box 293, Cote de Neiges Post Office, 5858 Cote de Neiges Boulevard, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3S 2S6

Nature: Closely affiliated with FACT - Ontario. A non-profit support organization for transsexuals, their relatives and friends, professionals and para-professionals working in the field of gender dysphoria, and others prepared to support the aims of the Foundation.

Services: Information distribution concerning transsexualism. Offers peer support and peer counseling. Organizes support groups across Canada wherever these are feasible and has area representatives wherever possible. Provides speakers on transsexualism to the mass media and others.

Security: Inquire.

FACTT - OTTAWA: Box 9155, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1G 3T9.

Nature: Support group primarily for transsexuals.

Services: Meetings monthly on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Security: Contact FACTT president through the Ottawa Gayline (613) 238-1717. Arrange a time for a callback.

TRANSITION SUPPORT: c/o The Church Street Community Centre, 519 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 2C9

Nature: Transsexual support.

Services: Annual membership fee ($25.00 cdn) includes monthly meetings and 12-issue sub to Trans News newsletter. Newsletter subscription alone, $15.00. Meetings held at 7:30 PM on the second Friday of each month. Meetings are open to TVs, TSs, TGs, SOs, helping professionals, and interested, caring members of the general public.

Security: None; inquire for details.

NU OMICRON PHI - TRI ESS: Nu Omicron Phi, P.O. Box 7421, Vanier, Ontario, Canada K1K 8E4

Nature: Social support for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

THE TRANSIE TIMES: T.T.T., 566 Parliament St, Toronto, ON M4X 1P8 Canada

Nature: A monthly tabloid dedicated to transvestites and their followers.

MONARCH SOCIAL CLUB: M.S.C., Box 579, Agincourt, ON M1S 3C6 CANADA

Nature: Non-profit non-sexual social organization serving TV's and TS's, their spouses, and friends.

Services: Private and public functions, a correspondence and peer linking service for members. Publishes the quarterly Monarch magazine. Sponsors the annual Mardi Gras Weekend outing the last weekend in August (Owen Sound).

Security: By member referral or filling in a club questionnaire application form. Inquiries welcome.

PHI SIGMA - TRI ESS: c/o Sara Geddis, Box 2546, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada T1A 8G8.

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

Security: Inquire

CORNBURY SOCIETY: Cornbury Society, Box 3745, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Z1 CANADA

Nature: Non-sexual support group for heterosexual crossdressers.

Services/Security: Inquire for meeting times and locations, and security requirements.

GREAT BRITAIN

BEAUMONT SOCIETY: BM, Box 3084, London WC1N-3XX England.

Nature: Beaumont is a non-profit, non-sexual organization for heterosexual transvestites throughout Great Britain.

Services: Evening and weekend functions, counselling for TVs with problems, and a contact system for members. Two bi-monthly magazines: The Beaumont Bulletin, which contains editorial notices, personal ads, a shopping guide, regional news, and articles on related matters; also Beaumag, which contains fictional, biographical, and autobiographical stories. Beaumont provides a library, legal advice, and a liaison and referral service to other organizations. Beaumont has a network of organizations throughout Great Britain, and affiliations worldwide.

Security: Private interview with a qualified member.

WOMEN OF THE BEAUMONT SOCIETY: BM W.O.B.S., Box 3084, London 2C1N-3XX England

Nature: A wives, partners and families support group for those who find the transvestite behavior difficult to understand.

Services: A confidential support service.

Security: Confidentiality assured.

THE PARTNERS GROUP: BM, Box 6093, London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND

Nature: A support group for partners and families of transsexuals.

Services: A confidential support network by which people with similar problems can be put in touch with each other and given sympathetic help.

Security: Inquire

SEAHORSE SOCIETY: BM Seahorse, Box 6093, London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND

Nature: A social organization for transvestites and transsexuals.

Services: Regular newsletter, social events, etc.

Security: Confidentiality assured.

BEAUMONT TRUST: BM Charity, Box 6093, London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND

Nature: Registered charity and voluntary body funded by donations.

Services: Assists those directly troubled by gender dysphoria or interested in their care. Provides referrals to appropriate organizations, professional counsellors, self-help groups, etc. Assists the gender dysphoric person and his or her family to come to terms with the problem.

Security: Inquire.

TV/TS SUPPORT GROUP: The TV/TS Group, 2 French Place, Shoreditch, London ENGLAND E1 6JB (off Bateman's Row) 01-729-1466. Hours: 8-10 PM Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Nature: Support/social Group for TV's, TS's, families and friends. A member of the NCVO (National Council of Volunteer Organizations). Registered Charity # 295376

Services: Meetings Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 7:30 pm to midnight. Wednesdays 11 am to 7 pm. Comfortable lounges, refreshments, social areas, storage lockers. The building belongs to the group. Peer support for CD's, TS's, wives and partners. Publishes the Glad Rag and other useful and informational publications.

Security: Open meetings, but VERY conscious of the need for individual security. All that is asked is a name to call you by.

THE GENDER DYSPHORIA TRUST (Formerly SHAFT): The Gender Dysphoria Trust, B.M. Box No. 7624, London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND

Nature: A self help group for those who consider themselves to be transsexual.

Services: Bi-monthly newsletter, handbook, and other relevant material. Annual subscription. Confidential contact system for members.

Security: Confidentiality assured.

NEW TRANS ESSEX: Box 3, Basildon, Essex, England SS14 1PT; 0268-583761 evenings 7:00 - 10:30 PM.

Nature: TV/TS social club.

Services: Meetings 2nd Friday of every month at the Kavorah Manor. There is a Club newsletter ("Narcissus") and a help line.

Security: Inquire

MERSEYSIDE TV/TS GROUP: 14 Colquitt Street, Liverpool, England L1 4DE; 051-708-0234. D. S. Cochran, secretary.

Nature: See "Beaumont society".

THE SCOTTISH TV/TS GROUP: c/o Julie Bradshaw, 53 Bread Street, Edinburgh EH3 9AH. Tel. 031 - 228-2231

Nature: TV/TS Support Group.

Services: Publish The Tartan Skirt, a monthly collection of original articles and gleanings from the media.

Security: Unknown at press time.

GENDER TRANSIENT AFFINITY (Isle of Wight): GTA, c/o Miss Phaedra Kelley, Box 2, 1 Bank Buildings, Freshwater, Isle of Wight, P040 9AJ, UK of GB

Nature: A non-profit organization dedicated to helping any transgendered person in any way possible.

Services: A network of friends communicating by mail. A "Global Village" project which is a collection of groups and organizations from around the world. Designed to "cement the bond of mutual respect and affinity among us", publishing news from around the world, travel routes between countries, etc. There is a museum and library.

THE NORTHERN CONCORD: The Northern Concord (in Manchester), c/o 122 Navigation Rd, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 1BE ENGLAND

Nature: A non-profit social and support group for transvestites, transsexuals, their wives and significant others. Associated with the Beaumont Society, and the TV/TS Support Group.

Services: Meetings at a Bistro in Manchester city every Wednesday night from 7:00 - 12:00. Publishes a quarterly magazine "Cross Talk".

Security: Inquire

BELFAST TV/TS GROUP: Cara, Friend, P.O. Box 44, Belfast BT1 1SH IRELAND phone Belfast 322 023 on evening of meeting.

Nature: Social support group for TVs, TSs, friends, mostly tea & chat.

Services: Meetings in Belfast on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7:45 - 10:00.

Security: Call first.

EUROPE

TRANS-CCL: Reverend Joseph Douce', Centre du Christ Liberateur, Minorities Sexuelles, TRANS-CCL, 3 Bis, Rue Clairaut, 75017, Paris-France; Tel. (1)46.27.49.36. (Reverend Douce' speaks English.)

Nature: TRANS-CCL is a non-profit social organization for sexual minorities. It is non-political and with a Christian foundation, but is also open to people with other convictions.

Services: A help-line Mondays from 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM at 1-627-4936. We have a large contact section (about 500 entries; probably the largest one in Europe) of contacts for transvestites and transsexuals. We can provide legal, psychological, pastoral, and surgical help, advisors, and literature for transsexuals. We organize meetings, meals, and other related events. We have a large documentation section on transsexuality. We can also provide all information available in Europe. We publish the book, La Question Transsexualle, exploring attitudes and procedures regarding transsexualism in the various European countries. (English translation not yet complete; French language edition currently in print; price 133.5 francs total.)

KONTAKTFORUM FEMME TRAVESTIE: 8023 Zurich, Switzerland Postfach 6788.

Nature: Very active social group in Switzerland. Other details are unavailable at this time.

F.P.E. NORTHERN EUROPE: M.A. Postboks 192 DK2600, Glostrup, Denmark. (Do not put F.P.E. on the envelope.)

Nature: See "Beaumont Society" in the England listings.

ASSOCIATION BEAUMONT CONTINENTALE: Gaby Linsig, 2 Rue des Charpentiers, 68270 Wittenheim, France.

Nature: See "Beaumont Society" in the England listings.

TRANSIDENTITAS: Transidentitas, Menschen Mit Abweichender Geschlects Identitat, Postfach 10 10 46, 6050 Offenbach GERMANY Phone: 069 8001008

Nature: Support group for transvestites and transsexuals.

Services: Inquire

TV CLUB HAMBURG: Postfach 26 14 26, 2000 Hamburg 26 GERMANY Phone: 040.250.13.13 (Christel Grunwald)

Nature: Inquire

Services: Inquire

F.P.E. (Northern Europe): FPE-NE, Postboks 1968 Vika, N 0125 Oslo 1 NORWAY

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual organization for heterosexual transvestites throughout Scandinavia with independent governed regions in Sweden, Denmark, and Norway.

Services: Monthly meetings, and twice a year weekend functions. Counselling for TVs with problems, and a contact system for members. Publishes 'Feminform', an informative quarterly publication. A private library for members.

Security: Private interview with qualified member.

F.P.E. (Northern Europe): Anette Hall, Box 728, S 101 30 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Nature: "Beaumont Society"

ASIA

ELIZABETH CLUB: Tsutsui building 5F 2-8-4, Suada-Cho, Kanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101, Japan.

Nature: The Elizabeth Club was established in 1979 for transsexuals, androgynes, and transgenderists. We are located in major centers such as Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya.

Services: We offer storage facilities for our members. We also have consultants available for helping members with make-up and dressing. There is a rental service of clothing, wigs, and other related items for members. The Club (through Ant Trading Co., listed below) also publishes a magazine called "Queen" every other month. This magazine serves as a source of information to members on activities and events in Japan.

ANT TRADING COMPANY: Ant Building 2F 5-32-18 Kameido, Koto-ku, Tokyo 136, Japan

Nature: Publisher of "Queen" Magazine, Japan's premier cross-dresser's reference guide. Single-copy and subscription prices unknown at press time.

AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES - SYDNEY: The Secretary, Box 146, Ulladulla, New South Wales 2538, Australia..

Nature: The Seahorse Society is a non-profit social organization for transvestites and families. The Society is a member in good standing of the Association of Self-Help Organizations and Groups, 39 Darghan Street, Glebe 2037, N.S.W., Australia. Seahorse welcomes new members and overseas visitors, offering support to those of us unable to emerge by means of affiliate membership.

Services: Seahorse distributes information on shopping, coming events, and being femme through a monthly newsletter to members. Meetings provide friendship, beauty assistance, and help with related matters.

Security: Seahorse places strong emphasis on security for all members and requires screening of prospective members before attending meetings. However, no screening is required of affiliate members (who are not advised of meeting places) unless they wish to become full members. Overseas members are screened in the same way; overseas visitors must either be screened or have accreditation from a similar (Beaumont, Tiffany, etc.) organization.

SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND: Box 628, Gympie, Queensland, Australia. Complete details of activities not yet available

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES - GLEBE: c/o Bernadette Cross, Box 168, Westgate, N.S.W., 2048.

Nature: See Seahorse - Sydney, above.

Services: Likewise refer to Seahorse - Sydney.

Security: Inquire.

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF VICTORIA: SSV, c/o GPO Box 2337V, Melbourne, VICTORIA, Australia. Jan Baxter, President.

Nature: The largest continuously active club in Australia. A non-profit, non-sexual social/support organization for crossdressers and their families.

Services: SSV regularly publishes the Seahorse Victoria newsletter. We sponsor social activities, outings, and related events.

Security: Inquire.

CAROUSEL CLUB: c/o Linda Allen, Box 721, Couandilla, South Australia 5033

Nature: A new group dedicated to the welfare of others like ourselves.

Services: Unknown at press time.

Security: Unknown at press time.

THE ELAINE BARRIE PROJECT: EBP, Box 405, Altona, Victoria 3018, Australia; tele 369-2613.

Nature: A non-profit self-help group for TVs and TSs. Self-funding and self-supporting.

Services: Regular monthly social meetings and education projects throughout the year. A large reading and video sex education library with emphasis on genuine TV- and TS-related issues. Guest speakers. Publish the Nu-Scene newsletter.

Security: Almost anyone over the age of 18 (TV, TS, helping professional, families, friends, and significant others) is welcome. One factor takes precedence over all others: that the visitor or member behaves in a civilized manner and bears us no ill will.

HEDESTHIA: Hedesthia Central, Box 78-026, Grey Lynn, Auckland, New Zealand.

Nature: Affiliated with the Beaumont Society.

THE MINORITIES TRUST & TRANSCARE / NEW ZEALAND: c/o The Minorities Trust, Box 2983, Wellington, NZ. Telephone: Wgtn (04) 844-764; (work) 737-800 ext 8642 Miss Leone Jeanne Neil, Rep.

Nature: A low profile, high powered lobby group promoting the rights of transpeople. A confidential, culturally divergent community support group helping meet the social and emotional needs of Transpeople.

Services: Personal counselling, employment opportunities, professional and medical referrals, periodical publications, and a non-threatening social environment for functions and entertainment.

Security: Call or write and enquire.

SOUTH AFRICA

THE PHOENIX SOCIETY: Box 375, Parow, 7500, Cape Town, Republic of South Africa. Marlene Knoetze, President

Nature: Affiliated with the Beaumont Society. The Phoenix Society is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization with an open membership policy.

Services: Publishes Fanfare magazine, actively trying to change attitudes in South Africa. Creating support groups in all major cities. Provides contacts.

Security: New members are "sponsored" by full members. All lists are confidential.

PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH SERVICES

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC OF NEW ENGLAND: GICNE, 68 Adelaide Road, Manchester, CT 06040. The Reverend Clinton R. Jones, Director;

Service: Provides screening for pre-operative TS applicants desirous of hormone therapy. Also provides screening for sex reassignment surgery approval for pre-operative TSs who have met the requirements of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association's Standards of Care.

METAMORPHOSIS: Box 6245, Broadway Station, Long Island City, NY 11106, 718-728-4615.

Nature: Psychotherapy and counselling for persons with gender identity/expression related problems.

ANDROGYNY UNLIMITED: Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602, 914-462-7455. Roger E. Peo PhD, Director.

Nature: A private service providing counselling, research, education, and supporting services.

Services: Individual counselling is provided by Dr. Peo, a Board-certified sexologist. Counselling is primarily for the transvestite/crossdresser and/or his significant other. Counselling is also provided for persons who are trying to determine if they are crossdressers or transsexuals. Referrals are made where appropriate. Make-up and shopping services for clients are also available. Classes, seminars, and workshops on transgender issues and human sexuality are provided both for college and graduate-level students and other groups. Ongoing research is conducted on a variety of topics in the transgender field.

Security: Appointments for counselling can be made by phoning or writing Dr. Peo at the above address.

SEXOLOGY ASSOCIATES, INC.: H. Martin Malin, PhD, 4835 Del Ray Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Nature: Counselling for transgendered persons.

CENTER FOR GENDER REASSIGNMENT: Deborah M. Gilbert, R.N., Coordinator, 400 W. Brambleton Avenue, Suite 300, Norfolk, VA 23510. (804) 623-1090.

Nature: Intake and evaluation center for persons seeking permanent gender reassignment and SRS.

Services: A carefully prepared gender transition program which meets or exceeds all aspects of the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care for transsexually inclined persons.

Security: Applicants to this program are subjected to a thorough screening by a highly qualified staff of medical and gender professionals. An 18-month period of successful cross-living and a minimum of six months' hormone therapy is required prior to consideration for surgery.

INSTITUTE FOR PSYCHOSEXUAL HEALTH (An affiliate of **Pathways Counseling Center**) (Milwaukee Transgender Program): 6815 West Capitol Dr., Suite 310, Milwaukee, WI 53216 414-466-6040 Charles A. Kiley, MSW Dir.

Nature: A therapy program for M-F and F-M transsexuals.

Services: A complete program of emotional support, evaluation and re-assignment hormone therapies and sexual re-assignment surgeries.

PROGRAM IN HUMAN SEXUALITY: University of Minnesota, Research East Building, 2630 University Avenue SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414. Call (612) 376-7520 to schedule an intake session.

Nature: A professionally managed gender program based on the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association Standards of Care. Administered by the University's Department of Family Practice and Community Health.

Services: Presently treats about 250 gender dysphoric clients. The program provides intake screening, diagnosis, alternative options and pre-surgery issues counselling, family and children's services, physical health care, and related assistance in a fully professional environment. The Program offers support and psychological services for families and children of gender dysphoric people as well.

GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM FOR TRANSSEXUALS: Alice Webb, MSW, CSW-ACP, 1917 Broadway, Suite 2, Galveston, TX 77550

Nature: Psychotherapy (individual & couple for both TS & TV), group meetings (not necessary to be in treatment to attend), referrals for hormones (must be in treatment), electrolysis, speech, legal services and SRS. Strict adherance to Harry Benjamin Standards.

Services: Group meetings are held 1st Saturday of each month, 8:00 pm. No fee. Long distance calls returned collect. No night calls. Primarily for persons self identifying as transsexuals.

Security: Must meet Ms Webb.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC: Tomye Kelley, MA, 8972 Oberon Rd, Arvada, CO 80004 (303) 420-9885.

Nature: Practice limited to work with crossdressers, the gender conflicted, and their significant others.

Services: Private one-on-one psychotherapy, weekly support groups, process groups for those in or preparing for transition. Also a professional Speaker's Forum.

GENDER IDENTITY COMMITTEE: Department of Psychiatry, University of Utah, College of Medicine, 50 North Medical Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84132; 801-581-7951. Dr. Nyla J. Cole, MD.

Services: Details not available at this time.

THE PRINCE INSTITUTE: The Prince Institute, P.O. Box 2916, Palm Springs, CA 92263 Angela Prince, Ph.D. Director

Nature: A private transgender awareness center offering counselling, education, and support services.

Services: Individual and/or group counselling primarily for the crossdresser/transvestite and/or his significant other. Trans-gender, human sexuality, and personal development classes, seminars, and workshops are also available. Services may be conducted through office visits, by telephone, or correspondence.

Security: Total confidentiality.

GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.: 32158 Camino Capistrano, Suite 203, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 714-240-7020 Wm. G. Heard, Ph.D. Director

Nature: A comprehensive program for gender dysphoric persons. Our program is one of many options available. It is a composite of evaluative and treatment techniques developed over the years by the more successful programs, which permit extensive screening and interaction of the patient at minimum cost, integrating the patient into the mainstream of society.

Services: Our program is structured to permit the patient to explore alternatives to sex reassignment while providing an effective support mechanism during transition. Our program is a 4-block procedure consisting of intake, transition/support, surgery approval/disapproval, and follow-up.

GENDER MINORITY PROGRAM: Gender Minority Program, P.O. Box 4447, San Francisco, CA 94101 (415) 558-8058 Joni A. Israel, Director

Nature: Consultation for individuals, groups, and clinicians.

Services: The GMP provides individual and group consultation to gender minority individuals. We serve transsexuals, transvestites, and other sexual minorities. We also serve as a resource for clinical consultation for the professional community.

TENDERLOIN SELF-HELP CENTER: 191 Golden Gate Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 554-0518

Nature: We are an innovative and non-traditional mental health program. We are a project of Central City Hospitality House.

Services: Training in peer counselling, support group facilitation, job training. We offer peer counselling, TV/TS support groups, A.A., shelter referrals and emergency medical care referrals, and other basic survival needs. We serve the 'Tenderloin' and 'South Of Market' communities of San Francisco.

HARRY BENJAMIN INTERNATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA ASSOCIATION: HBIGDA, 900 Welch Road #402, Stanford, CA 94304.

Nature: A non-profit professional group with special interest in gender dysphoria syndrome.

THE PACIFIC CENTER FOR HUMAN GROWTH: Box 908, Berkeley, CA 94701; 415-548-8283. Hot Line: 415-841-6224. Allyana Guenther, Executive Director.

Nature: A private, non-profit agency funded by the United Way, county revenue sharing funds, sliding scale fees, and contributions. The Center is dedicated to providing high-quality services to sexual minorities of all ages, races, and backgrounds.

Services: Educational services and outreach to the community at large. Speaker's Bureau, counseling, and group meetings.

SEXUAL IDENTITY CENTER: Box 3224, Honolulu, HI 96801-3224; 808-926-1000.

Services: Therapists, referrals, special support group for TVs and TSs.

THE INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER: 1812 East Madison, Seattle, WA 98122 (206) 329-6651 Marcia Botzer, Executive Director

Nature: Ingersoll Gender Center is a non-profit counselling and referral service serving the transsexual community throughout the Northwest. It is managed by a professional board and has 8 experienced, licensed therapists with advanced degrees on contract. Ingersoll works closely with the Emerald City and Seattle Counseling Service.

Services: Individual and group counseling, professional consultation to service providers, referrals, research, and public information presentation. Weekly support meetings, public information presentations, research, and informational materials upon request.

SEATTLE COUNSELLING SERVICE: 1505 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122; 206-329-8707 noon to 9 pm weekdays Michael Auch, Executive Director

Nature: Seattle Counseling Service is the oldest counseling service for sexual minorities in the U.S. A United Way agency, SCS receives grants from state and local sources to provide counseling and therapy for the full range of problems related to sexual issues.

Services: SCS provides a weekly support group for TVs, TSs, significant others, in-betweens, and I-don't-knows every Friday from 8 to 10 pm. Facilities for dressing on-site. Also provides crisis line.

GENDER WORKER SERVICES: Rupert Raj, BA (Psych.), P.R., Box 1224, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1G7, Canada ; 416-769-7170.

Nature: A professional registered service serving a transgender clientele. Clients include both those suffering from gender dysphoria and persons who have resolved their gender issues, but require assistance with related matters.

Services: Mr. Raj provides information, referrals, counseling, group raps, intermediation between clients and significant others, presentations, seminars, workshops, peer-linking, media outreach, resume' assistance, leadership training, and networking. Services may be conducted through office visits or correspondence; fees normally $20.00 per hour or $25.00 per letter.

GENDERSERVE: Box 291 Station "A", Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3C8. Susan C. Huxford, Director.

Nature: Counselling, education, and research services. Registered in Ontario as a proprietorship. Operating as a non-profit organization serving TVs, TSs, and gender dysphoric people in general, homosexual people, wives, friends, and relatives. Services for a nominal fee to cover expenses. Inquiries by mail or phone. No collect calls.

Services: Counselling in sexual matters for individuals and couples. Pastoral counselling if requested. Referrals. Initial counselling session (mail or phone) free of charge. Lectures, radio/television and other mass media interviews by arrangement. Group counselling and therapy by request.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC: c/o Dr. Betty Steiner, Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, 250 Col-

lege Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R8.

Nature: Accepts referrals through the patient's General Practitioner only.

COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARDS

THE JERSEY SHORE SYSTEM: Ocean County, NJ; 609-693-8849. 300/1200 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service.

Services: Log on using the name APRIL MAY with the password of FRIENDS (all caps). This will get you into a sub-board of the main system. After you have logged on as above you may register the name of your choice for future access.

GENDERLINE:

Nature: BBS (Compuserve Information Service).

Services: Nodes nationwide. Admission by subscription to Compuserve and by permission by System Operator HSX forum B (GO HSX 200 at any prompt). Discrete, support community for both TVs and TSs. Consists of closed forum, conference area, and extensive data library of factual information and archived discussions of topics of concern.

PASSING FANCY: Alexandria, VA 703-765-6290; 300/1200/2400 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service. Both a public and a private section. The private section is available for subscribers only. Answer the "SYSTEM ID" prompt with "FANCY" to gain access to the public section.

TV/TS GENDER FORUM: Grand Rapids, MI: 616-676-2429; 300/1200/2400 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service. The Gender Forum is a closed forum accessible exclusively by members of the gender community, and professionals that work with us.

Services: The Gender Forum also has a 'Companion **Support Forum**' exclusively for significant others, spouses, and partners.

CAROLYN'S CLOSET: Minneapolis, MN; 612-452-2676; 300/1200 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board: Totally free. A very nice, user-friendly board with some very nice user-written fiction and stories.

US TOO: Chicago, IL: 312-486-3125; 300/1200/2400 baud 8N1

Nature: Non-profit transsexual support Bulletin Board Service affiliated with the Sunday Society.

Services: Very user friendly BBS with four sub-boards (M-F TS, F-M TS, TV, general).

Security: Call first.

CROSS LINK: Denver, CO: 1 (303) 665-3746. 300/1200 baud, 8 bits, 1 stop bit, no parity.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service

Services: When you log on you will see, "You have reached M&D's Travelling Circuits BBS Where YOU Are the Main Attraction!" Name? Last Name? Follow instructions, answer questions. Enter the name "CROSS-LINK".

FEMINET:

Nature: Electronic bulletin board serving the gender community. Specialty: General resource for all TVs, TSs, and all other persons interested in transgendered lifestyles. Largest BBS devoted to gender issues.

Services: Baud 300/1200/2400 (8 bit, no parity, one stop bit). Software: QuickGGS 2.03 (highly modified). Access: Answer all new-login questions and you will be logged onto Digicomputronica, a public "front" for Feminet. Enter "P" (for password). Password is "KEY" (without quotes). Hours: 24 hours. Financed by contributions.

COMMERCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

GENDER EXPRESSIONS: Bisley Enterprises, c/o P.O. Box 2434, Woburn, MA 01888

Nature: Commercial non-sexual TV/TS publication oriented towards the informational needs of the gender dysphoric community.

EN FEMME MAGAZINE: En Femme Magazine, 1977 N. Olden Ave, Suite 205, Trenton, NJ 08618

Nature: Non-sexual magazine dealing with all aspects of the transvestite, transsexual, and female impersonator in a tasteful, dignified manner.

Services: Articles, interviews, stories, artwork, photos, classifieds.

CREATIVE DESIGN SERVICES: Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406; 215-640-9449.

Nature: A commercial concern marketing a line of products and services for the TV/TS Community.

Services: Publish "Art and Illusion: a Guide to Crossdressing" and "LadyLike Magazine", sponsors "Paradise in the Poconos" weekends in May and September.

Security: None.

CHANGING MEN: Editorial Office & Subscriptions, 306 N. Brooks St, Madison, WI 53715

Nature: An international magazine dealing with the issues of gender, sex, and politics.

SCD PUBLISHING: c/o Nancy Lawson, Box 6322, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

Nature: TV/TS publishing house.

Services: Publishes TV/TS Talk bi-monthly for members and supporters of the TV/TS Community. TV/TS Talk is modeled after the Penthouse Forum, but deals exclusively with gender related issues. $3.50 per issue; $21.00 per year.

THE AMERICAN CROSSDRESSER: Chevalier Publications, P.O. Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Nature: A magazine for crossdressers designed to replace 'Transvestia'.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

GENDER INFORMATION SERVICES: Box 9238, N. Dartmouth, MA 02747-9238.

Nature: Information and referral service.

Services: Books and pamphlets for sale. Referral service (fee required).

SEX INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES (SIECUS): SIECUS, 34 Washington Place, Rm. 52, New York, New York 10003. (212) 573-3850.

Nature: SIECUS is affiliated with the Department of Health Education of the School of Education, Health, Nursing, and the Arts Professions of New York University. SIECUS deals with all sexual issues, including gender expression.

J2CP INFORMATION SERVICES: Box 184, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0184; 714-496-5227

Nature: J2CP provides information and referral services formerly provided by the Erickson Educational Foundation and the JANUS Information Facility.

Services: J2CP provides an information package consisting of pamphlets and literature concerning Gender Dysphoria Syndrome, TVism, and TSism. This info package is available at a cost of $25.00 to cover research, printing, secretarial, and postage services. J2CP also provides referrals to reputable counselors, psychotherapists, gender programs, and peer groups near your home. Certified checks and money orders should be made payable to J2CP Information Services. Please specify whether you are M-F TS, F-M TS, or TV. If TS, please provide your place of birth.

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY: SFBAGLHS, Box 42126, San Francisco, CA 94142.

Nature: Reference library for lesbian, gay, and transgendered persons.

Services: Large periodical collection of Bay Area and California titles preserved for research.

TRANSGENDER ARCHIVE: TGA, c/o Dr. Richard Ekins, Ulster University, Magee College, Northland Road, Londonderry BT48 7JL, Northern Ireland.

Nature: A non-profit academic research and study facility.

Services: Seeking both group and personal deposits related to every kind of Transgender regardless of sexuality or self designation of gender identity: TV/TS/TG/GT/CD, Gender Bender/Blender, Drag (all kinds), Newspaper cuttings, magazines, group journals, photos, sound and video tapes, records, artifacts of history and living history. Publishes "Archive News" a newsletter and news agency with three purposes: (1) To provide news for transgender groups and publications, (2) To inform the transgender community of the progress of the Archive, and (3) To help the

Archive improve its deposits.

Security: One hundred percent, closed deposits accepted as noted by the depositor. Access to research material by direct application to Dr. Ekins, granted subject to his decision. Access to deposits is only granted on permission by the original depositor and Dr. Ekins after a full security consultation.

RESEARCH

TEENAGE CROSSDRESSING RESEARCH PROJECT: Sheila Kirk, c/o P.O. Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230

Nature: Long-term research project being conducted by a physician, a Boarded Specialist in OB-Gyn, with a research background.

Security: Parental approval required. The security of each teenager and his parents is a paramount consideration.

NATIONAL GENDER PROJECT: Box 126, Northridge, CA 91328 Dr. Richard F. Docter, PhD, Director, Department of Psychology, California State University Northridge, Northridge, CA 91330; 818-885-2828.

Nature: Individual and marital counselling for TVs, TS, and their significant others; research on gender issues.

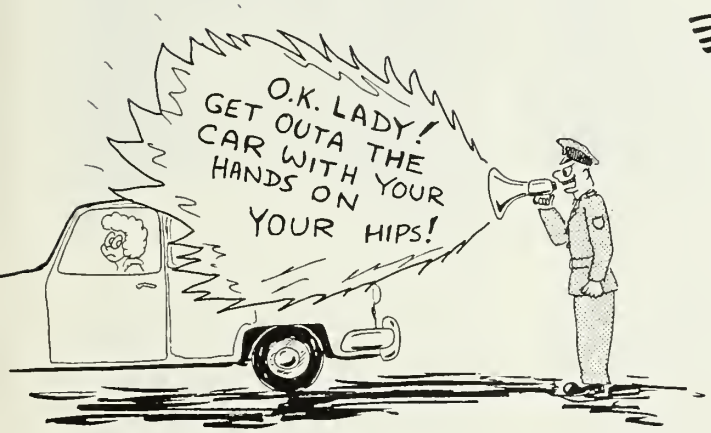
Services: Counselling and research on gender issues. (Dr. Richard Doctor's new book, Transvestites and Transsexuals: Toward a Theory of Cross-Gender Behavior is now available from I.F.G.E., Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778. $29.50 plus $2.50 shipping and handling.)

PROJECT FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF GENDER EDUCATION: Michael Persinger, Dept. of Psych., Wayne State U., Detroit, MI 48282

Nature: A research project attempting to increase scientific knowledge of the CD Community. Special emphasis in the area of individual personality and how it relates to certain attitudes and behaviors. CD is treated as an alternative lifestyle. Working closely with Crossroads of Michigan.

Services: Confidential questionnaires available for all who wish to participate.

Security: Questionnaire strictly confidential, for research purposes only.



PERSONAL LISTINGS

PERSONAL LISTINGS OBJECTIVES:

1.) To provide a means of introduction, outreach, and communications for members of the International Foundation for Gender Education. (General Subscribers and Supporting Members are considered members of I.F.G.E.)
2.) To provide non-members with a source of support and communications.
3.) To provide the general public with a better understanding of the nature of the people who are members and supporters of the Crossdressing/Transsexual Community.

WHO MAY PLACE A PERSONAL LISTING:

To place a personal listing you must be an up-to-date General Subscriber (or IFGE Supporting Member). (Please see the subscription form at the back of the Personal Listings.) As a subscriber your personal listing is free of charge for the duration of your subscription. Also, your mail will be forwarded at no cost to you.

HOW TO RESPOND TO A PERSONAL LISTING:

1.) If the address is given in the personal listing, write directly to that address.
2.) If there is no address given, follow these instructions exactly:
   (A) Place your letter in an unstamped envelope.
   (B) Pencil in the name, state prefix, and membership number (given at the bottom of the listing). (Be sure to use pencil so the name can be erased.)
   (C) Include $1.00 (for postage and handling) for each piece to be forwarded.
   (D) Place the letters to be forwarded inside another envelope, and mail to: TAPESTRY, P.O. BOX 367, WAYLAND, MA 01778

MASSACHUSETTS

AUDREY M (E MA) (#54)
Member: Tiffany Club
MWM bi-TV, 53, 155, 5'10", nice, intelligent, well adjusted, sense of humor. Enjoys current events, music, sailing, photography, woodworking. Would like to have a few TV friends for casual get-togethers; freedom limited to weekdays 9-6.
Neil Moses, Box 66, Allston, MA 02134

Chris Robins (MA-1354)

CHRIS ROBINS (E MA) (#54)
Member: Tiffany Club
Participant: Fantasia Fair
Single TV, Bi-, 44, passes easily. Goes out frequently. Interested in psychological aspects of cross-dressing, androgyny, and feminism. Loves to dance.
Chris Robins (MA-1354)

CYNTHIA CRANE (SE MA) (#53)
MWM hetero crossdresser, 40, 6', sensitive and discrete. Interests: Computers, telecommunications, video tape, music, TV fantasies & bondage, tight clothing, correspondence with others of like interests. "I love being dressed in nylon, satin, and leather. I would like to exchange books, fantasies, and thoughts about enforced crossdressing."
Cynthia Crane (MA-0843)

SUSAN A. (SE MA) (#52)
MWM TV, 30's, 5'7", 140.
Interests: Collecting and wearing all kinds of lingerie, TV literature. Would like to meet others with similar interests. "I've been kind of away from the TV scene for a while, but am hoping to get active again soon.
Susan A. (MA-0064)

Valerie V. (MA-0273)

VALERIE VINCENT (E MA) (#55)
Member: Tiffany Club
5' 10", 150, 147, blue eyes, attractive. (Centerfold Transvestian Vol 4 #10). Interested in meeting understanding woman on a social basis for talks, shopping, lunch, fun and friendship... a woman who will help bring Valerie out of the closet. Also interested in corresponding with all who wish to write and exchange pictures.
Occupant, Box 8341, JFK Station, Boston, MA 02114

'Gita' R. (MA-1815)

MARGARITA ("GITA") AMANDA R. (E. MA) (#52)
Member: Tiffany
Participant: Be-All, Detroit, 1988
DWM, 50's, 5'11", 185, young looking and thinking, run-off-at-the-mouth conversationalist, yet a good listener. Introspective, interested in everything, especially geography and history, science and photography, classical music, camping and hiking, cooking, gardening and canning (500 tomatoes in '87), dancing, softball, pretty and lacy feminine attire, and PEOPLE. While celibate, I love to HUG. Live alone on north shore of MA. PLEASE WRITE! All letters will be answered.
Margarita R. (MA-1815)

VALERIE PAULSEN (E MA) (#55)
Member: Tiffany Club
Awards: FF Ms Cinderella '85
DWM, 44, 5'11", 140. I live full-time as a male woman. At work, where all 350 employees know I'm male, I wear high-heels and dresses, and use the men's room with the other guys. It's been a year, and I haven't had one complaint. I'm looking for a digital design genius-artist for possible collaboration on revolutionary laser show system. Definite plus if you are tall, slender, gorgeous fem. Any sex okay.
Valerie Paulsen, P.O. Box 259, Watertown, MA 02172

CHRISTINE POKORSKY (MA) (#53)
Member: Tiffany
Do not get opportunity to go out often dressed. Would like to correspond with other TVs and understanding GGs.
Christine P. (MA-1972)

Holly C. (MA-0379)

HOLLY CROSS (MA) (#52)
IFGE Board of Directors, IFGE Staff
Member: Tiffany
Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing, IFGE Convention, Shangri-La, Joyce Dewhurst's Poconos Outing
SWM TV, mid-60's. Lives alone except for a lot of VHF ham gear and about 200 size 20 outfits. Is fairly active, goes to many concerts dressed, and has been to over 15 outings. Looks like a proper Boston lady, and is having a 'hell' of a good time. "I try to answer all the interesting letters, but no guarantee."
Holly C., c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

GAYLE W. (MA) (#52)
MWM, 40, 5'8", size 14, quiet, friendly, and active. Enjoy cooking, antiques, shopping and going out to dinner & theater. Like to swim and entertain. "I prefer the feminine side of my personality and enjoy being a woman without guilt, I would like to help others do the same.
Gayle W. (MA-0243)

Elizabeth N. (MA-1728)

ELIZABETH ASHLEY NEAL (MA) (#55)
TV, 42, 6', brown hair, brown eyes. Non-smoker. Loves high heels. Would like to meet other TVs for dressing, shopping, going out, and friendship. Will answer all letters. Enclose photo if possible.
Elizabeth N. (MA-1728)

LILA WALTON (W. MA) (#54)
Naturally inclined this way I do pass well and enjoy being accepted. Interests: Contemporary theater, acting, poetry and poetry readings, folk music, Irish songs and ballads. "I love to be out among people in nice places, when I can do this. I like to talk a lot, and I listen."
L. Walton, 55 Commons Drive #36, Shrewsbury, MA 01545

SUE FANON (W. MA) (#52)
SWM TV, 32, 5'10", 160, brown eyes & hair, easy going, clean, understanding, loving & sincere. Interests: Dressing up & being feminine, lingerie, makeup, travel, & meeting new friends. "I am a novice TV who enjoys being feminine and would like to enjoy sincere friendships with fellow 'sisters'. I would like to correspond or meet a pre- or post-op transsexual."
Sue F. (MA-0983)

SUSAN ELIZABETH R. (MA) (#53)
SWM TV, 53, 6' 180, brown hair, hazel eyes. Interests: Photography, treasure hunting, 40's and 50's music, dogs, nature, and being a lady. "I would like to correspond with other girls in E. MAss., especially Metro-West area."
Susan Elizabeth R. (MA-0839)

MICHELLE C. (MA) (#52)
Bi MWM TV, 32, 175, 6'. Interests:

Music, chardonnays, lingerie, quiet relaxed dinners. Looking to meet intelligent, sophisticated TV/TS's for friendships. Will answer all who send photos.

Michelle C., DLD Suite 572, 310 Franklin St, Boston, MA 02116

Gloria R. (MA-1858)

GLORIA ROTHSCHILD (MA) (#53)

Participant: Fantasia Fair

Awards: Ms Cinderella '89

Single TV, 36, 5'9", 150, brunette, caring, adjusted, fun-loving. Into personal growth, psychology, world affairs, hi-tech, music/arts, massage, and nature. Love the slopes, the beach, shopping, dancing, girl talk, feeling feminine. Hope to go out more, relate to others as a woman, and pass more naturally. Wish to meet sincere, articulate, emotionally secure TV's, TS's, genetic females, and couples for friendship, conversation, support, outings. Send photo & phone # (if possible). Sorry, I'm not a great correspondent, but will try.

Gloria Rothschild, Box 931, Cambridge, MA 02140

JAMIE LOREN (MA) (#52)

5'8", 145, green eyes, brown hair, attractive, perceptive, friendly, socially adjusted. Interests: Music, reading, socializing, friendship only, astrology, fashion, hair styling. "I am seeking people who are real about themselves and life's values. Not interested in sex or BS. Serious minded persons only."

Jamie Loren, P.O. Box 221, Dorchester, MA 02122-0002

RACHEL LYNN (MA) (#52)

5'9", 145, separated. At early stage of pre-op TS M-F. Live as Rachel, work as male. "Would like to meet other gals for friendship and sharing feminine interests, makeup, hormones, and sexy clothes. Looking for long-term friendships to help find myself."

Rachel Lynn, P.O. Box 293, N. Billerica, MA 01862

Christy S. (MA-0649)

CHRISTY SMITH (MA) (#54)

Member: Tiffany

MWM, 40, 5'11", 175, brown hair/eyes. "I love looking like a woman. I especially like working with wigs and makeup. Would love to meet/correspond with others with like interests. Photo gets prompt reply."

Christy Smith (MA-0649)

SUZANNE C. (MA) (#52)

Member: Tiffany

Work as a man but live at home as a woman. People tell me I'm attractive. I am always striving to improve my feminine thoughts, appearance, and mannerisms. I enjoy computers, cooking, fashion, entertaining as Suzie, ad just being me. Would like to correspond with others and make friends with sensible, discreet individuals.

Suzanne C. (MA-0295)

DOROTHY (MA) (#52)

Member: Tiffany Club

Participant: Fantasia Fair

SWM, CD, 5'11, 40. Athletic, great legs, works out. Enjoys biking, has supportive partner. Would like to meet other couples.

Dorothy (MA-1785)

SHARON McGRATH (MA) (#52)

Member: Tiffany Club

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Tiffany outings

WM, 34, 5'6", 140, TV-TS. "I enjoy everything feminine; love going out dressed for shopping and travel. Would like to meet and correspond with others her age with same interests."

Ms. Sharon McGrath (MA-0504)

SANDRA SCOTT (MA) (#52)

Member: Tiffany

Participant: Tiffany Spring Convention

SWM TV, brown eyes and hair, trim figure. Enjoy skiing, bowling, crafts, and dancing. Wish to meet new people, make new friends, and learn to be as much a lady as possible.

Sandra Scott (MA-0544)

CRYSTAL RAYMOND (SE MA) (#53)

I would like to meet or correspond with other TVs/TSs in SE MA/Cape Cod area and desire to establish a cooperative home for sisters in our area. Fun-loving, caring individual, discreet, enjoys photography and writing (TV fantasies a specialty)

Crystal Raymond (MA-1923)

LISA (MA) (#54)

MWM, 33, 5'8". Lisa is willing to help others become happy too. "I have just started to realize that to be truly happy, I must accept that one is what one is. Would like to meet others at this stage of 'becoming'."

Lisa C. (MA-1956)

Kathy M. (MA-2038)

KATHY MASTERS (C MA) (#54)

Late 30's, 70", para-medical (loves to help people). Loves balance between masculine and feminine lifestyle. Honest, secure and has perfect shoulders to cry on. Expert in shopping London TV shops. Corsets, maids costumes, elegant dresses are my passion. Seeks communication, meetings, and help from all.

Kathy M. (MA-2038)

LAUREN D. (MA) (54)

5'10", 185, 30, married, hetero, monogamous CD with supportive wife. Enjoy most sports, camping, crossdressing, and improving my image. My wife and I wish to correspond and possibly meet with other CD couples in the North Shore area for friendship, understanding, and helping. Will answer all.

Lauren D. (MA-2047)

CHARLENE MANN (MA) (#54)

Member: Tiffany

Friendly, outgoing human service professional (MR/Prader-Willi) and software developer (blind/sight-impaired), living and working fulltime in my chosen gender role. Compulsively constructive, with a generally accurate "feel" for what works and a good (tho' sometimes warped) sense of humor.

Enjoy writing, bicycling, cooking, sewing, and time with friends. Would like to meet or correspond with other TSs (both directions) working in human services, both MH and MR. (I'm a slow but sure respondent.)

Charlene Mann, c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

DIANA JOYCE HOLMWOOD (E MA) (#53)

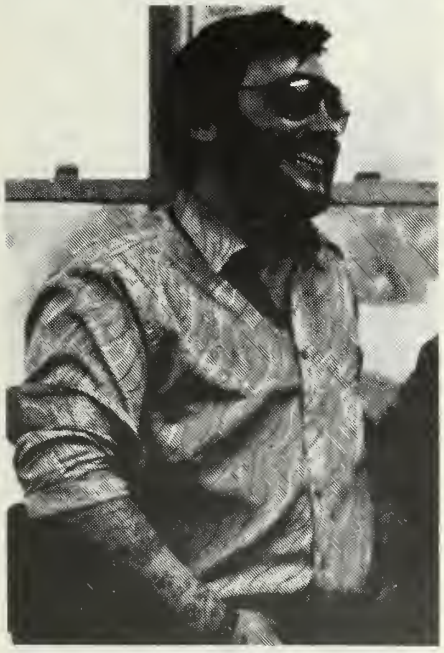
Was "cover girl" in 'Transvestia' many years back. Was very active when I lived in Buffalo, NY area. I'm 63, 5'8", 175, size 16, pierced ears, have taken hormones, have been a TV for 55 yrs, and I love it!! I have been so busy making a living that I have neglected my feminine self and I want to change that.

Diana Joyce H. (MA-1999)

ERIN ANNE O. (E. MA) (#54)

SWM TV, 23, 5'9", 165. Loves alternative music, friends, and all aspects of femininity, especially dressing. Would like to correspond with other TV/TS's. Send photos if possible. Discretion assured & required. Need help dressing.

Erin O. (MA-2094)



Les N. (MA-2124)

LES N. (E MA) (#54)

Post-op F-M, 30's. Looking for correspondence to make lasting friendships with other F-M TSs, and with GGs.

Les N., P.O. Box 123, Wakefield, MA 01880

DONNA C. (W MA) (#54)

MWM hetero, 5'11", 180, 26. Crossdresser since teenager. I like feeling feminine. never been out, but would like to. Not sure about passing. Not good with makeup. Like to find a club in my area. Will respond ASAP.

D. Coan, P.O. Box 392, Granby, CT 06035

ARLEEN SUSAN L. (E MA) (#55)

MWM hetero closet TV, 47, 5'10", 205. I love dressing completely as a woman. Especially love nylons, heels, and lingerie. Am cautiously just venturing into the beautiful world of femininity, after many years in the deep closet. I love my femininity and wish to pursue all aspects of being a woman.

Arleen L. (MA-1648)

Diana D. (MA-2146)

DIANA DWYER (W MA) (#54)

Member: TGIC

Hetero TV, 5'11", 175, 23. Usually brunette w/brown eyes. Possibly attractive, but would welcome all advice from TV's CD's and TS's. Very open to anyone. Enjoys getting dressed for a party. Willing to be open to all my new sisters. Interests: All sports (200+ bowler), photography, video, and dressing to relax and enjoy.

Diana Dwyer, P.O. Box 4104, Pittsfield, MA 01201

Robyn G. (MA-2208)

ROBYN GOLDSTEIN (E MA) (#54)

Member: Tiffany

MWM hetero TV, 40, 5'7", 160. Extremely supportive wife. 3 kids. My wife and I, as a couple, would like to correspond with other couples wrestling with the sexual and emotional implications of CD. Have never been out, but looking forward to it eventually.

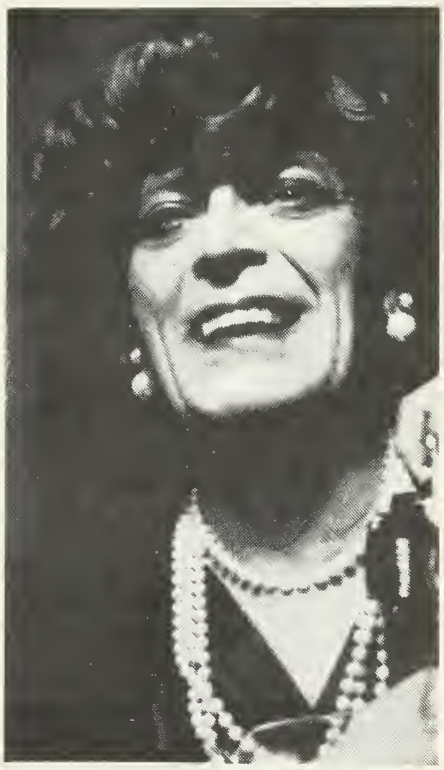
Robyn Goldstein, P.O. Box 6211, Boston, MA 02114

Joyce S. (MA-2241)

JOYCE S. (W MA) (#54)

Bi TV, WM, 5'8", 43. Age & race unimportant as well as height & weight. I'm a passible lady. Interested in meeting others, singles & couples for friendships. Love to entertain or travel. Into music, photography, videos & golf. Also love TV fun & fantasies. Will answer all with photo & tel #.

Joyce S. (MA-2241)



Jennifer E. (MA-2249)

JENNIFER EDWARDS (SE MA) (#55)

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E

MWM, 60's, crossdresser for 50 years. Loves meeting with other CD's. Seek friends in Cape Cod area. Wife merely tolerant. Jennifer

does housework, writes professionally, enjoys photography, sailing. Will reply to all.
Jennifer E. (MA-2249)

LISA COPPER (E MA) (#54)
SWM, 29, 5'10", 22. Like to dress at home. Looking for a woman that can understand and to help me dress and look my best. Also like to meet TV/TS for friends.
Lisa Copper, P.O. Box 415, Wakefield, MA 01880

HEATHER DAWN ANDERSON (E MA) (#54)
Member: Tiffany
MWM, 39, 5'11", 130. Crossdressing since childhood, transsexual inclinations. Interests: Music (rock to classical), songwriting, cooking, running. I enjoy long walks on the seashore accompanied by intimate conversation and fun.
Heather A. (MA-0661)

LANA VAN HAIGHT (SE MA) (#53)
Pre-op TS, 5'6", 44, 120, brown eyes, long auburn hair, soft smile, considered attractive. Have cross-lived for 4 years, and loving ever second. Soft spoken, loner and lonely, shy, live alone. Believer in unicorns, and that somewhere out there someone is thinking of me. Romantic, sentimental, relationship oriented (long term). Realistic, old fashioned, loyal, kind.
Interested in yard sales, flea markets, weekend get-aways, dancing, and helping people. I really want to meet someone who will love me for myself.
Lana Van Haight, P.O. Box 2903, Montello Sta., Brockton, MA 02403-3551

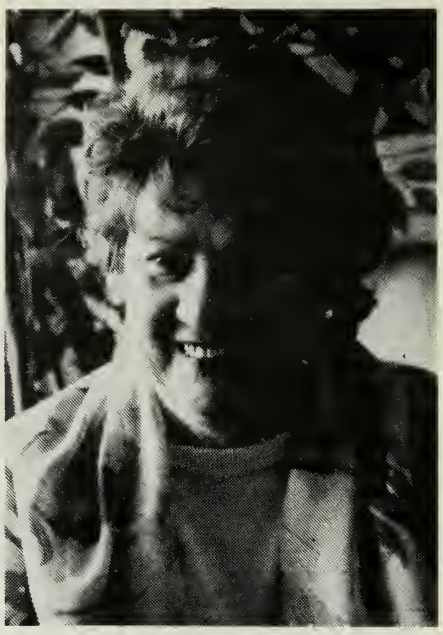
BOBBIE DAVIES (W MA) (#54)
Would like to hear from other male TV's and hear about their fantasies. Tell me about yourself. What do you like to wear, etc. Talk to me!
Bobbie D. (MA-2238)

DOROTHY T. (E MA) (#55)
WM TV, 50+, intelligent, articulate, discreet. Seeks that special relationship, can't find the closet door at this point, adores pretty lingerie, velvet gowns, and wedding attire. Would love to exchange letters and share fantasies with others.
Dorothy T. (MA-2261)

NEW HAMPSHIRE - MAINE - VERMONT

RON B. (NH) (#53)
SWM, Bi, 38, 5'10", 200, well built, brown hair & eyes, good looking. Interested in making contacts with TVs & TSs. Possible relationship. Loves makeup, fancy dresses, high heels, nylons, etc. Owns home, can entertain. Would like monthly parties.
Ron B., P.O. 166, Bedford, NH 03102

GWYNETH H. (S ME) (54)
Participant: Fantasia Fair
TS, 37, 5'7", single. I enjoy long country walks, late dancing, Cinderella stories, folk music and reading. In the last two years my life has opened up with my transition. Fantasia Fair was a very helpful positive experience for me now and for my future.



Merissa L. (NH-0001)

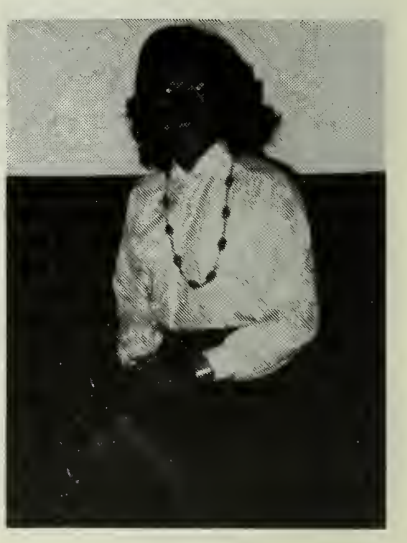
MERISSA SHERRILL LYNN (NH)
Executive Director I.F.G.E., Editor In Chief TV/TS Tapestry, Director 'Coming Together' Convention
Awards: Dr. Prince 'Lifetime Contribution' award
Single, 47, 6', 200, BA philosophy, athletically oriented (pro skier 8 years). A caring person, sincerely interested in the well-being of others. Interests: Folk singing, bridge (ACBL silver life master), the wilderness, loving and free thinking people. "I'm sorry but I cannot respond to personal correspondence. However, I'm very interested in hearing from people who are willing to put out some effort on behalf of our community. So, if you are a leader/worker-type person and willing to extend yourself to help others, write to me, or better, give me a call."
Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Box 367, Wayland MA 01778 (617) 894-8340

Anne Marie (NH-0844)

ANNE MARIE (NH) (#53)
Member: Tri-Ess
78 yr-old retired physician, married. A life-long crossdresser. At present, thanks to a loving and forbearing wife, dress most of the time at home. Enjoying the privacy of rural life.

Carolann D. (NH-0890)

CAROLANN E. DURETTE (NH) (#55)
Bi shemale, 40, 5'9", size 18, blue eyes, fair complexion, feminized body, long silver-blonde frosted hair. I'm looking for a permanent relationship with a good looking guy who enjoys crossdressing. Please, no drinkers or drug users. I am legally female with complete female ID.
Carolann D. (NH-0890)



Lee A. (ME-0247)

LEE A. (ME) (#52)
MWM closet TV, 5'10", brown hair, good personality. Enjoys dressing and being as feminine as possible. Would like to meet and/or correspond with others. Spends winters in Myrtle Beach, SC. Would love to meet someone there or on the way from Maine to there. Will respond to all letters.
Lee A. (ME-0247)

CLAIRE DANIELLE (NH) (#55)
DWM, 5'8", 135, brown hair/eyes, size 9. Slowly attempting to live as I feel most comfortable. Seek honest help and support.
Bobby, P.O. Box 478, Wilton, NH 03086

MICHELLE RENEE St. LAURENT (NH) (#53)
Member: Tiffany Club
DWM, 35, 5'10", 180, growing my own permed hair so I don't have to wear a wig. I

am becoming more passable with time and practice, and find myself gaining confidence with my femininity. I am looking for other TVs or TSs in the central NH area for friendship and support. We can all use a friend now and then.

Michelle Renee St. L. (NH-1902)

Michelle St. L. (NH-1902)

Patricia K. (VT-1998)

PATRICIA KELLEY (VT) (#53)

Member: EON (past president)

Participant: Tiffany Couples Weekend

Mid-40's, 5'9", blue eyes, size 14. My wife and I would like to meet mature couples who are comfortable with their gender and the community. We are offering retreats for couples at our Inn in Vermont during April and November. We are interested in skiing, hiking, canoeing, outdoors, and your good company.

Patricia K. (VT-1998)

KATHERINE M. (ME) (#54)

TS, 43, 160. Am just beginning physical transformation of something that I've been pursuing since I was 6. Interests include hiking, tent camping, cooking, photography, music, writing. Would like to hear from TS's - regardless of background, interests, or SRS. Warning: only coherent, intelligible letters answered.

Katherine M. (ME-2244)

Wendi K. (ME-2034)

WENDI LYNN KAISER (S ME) (#54)

SWM, 47, 150, BS EE, MPA, brown eyes, TV on the brink of TS. I'm completing electrolysis, still learning makeup and ready to progress. I'm an ultralight pilot, have horses, and enjoy reading spy mysteries. Wendi is blossoming and I love it. I enjoy going out, and I'm planning on attending Fantasia Fair '89.

Wendi Kaiser, P.O. Box 67, S. Berwick, ME 03908

Karen N. (ME-0787)

KAREN ANN NIELSEN (ME) (#54)

Member: Tiffany

Participant: "Coming Together", Tiffany's P-town Outing

MWM hetero CD (since adolescence), 5'4", 130, friendly, happy, enjoys people, places, & things. Enjoys photography, walking, clothes, dining out, shopping, nature. "I would enjoy corresponding and exchanging photos with other crossdressers. I would also enjoy discreet shopping trips and dining out while dressed."

Karen Ann N. (ME-0787)

Helene H. (VT-2021)

HELENE H. (VT) (#54)

5'10", 185, slim and athletic. I ski and play tennis. Won't say how old I am, but have a very youthful muscular body. I live alone in the country. I've been a TV since I was 12, and didn't understand it. I love heavy make-up. With my face I could not go out, but my house is large and private. I would welcome visitors.

Helene H. (VT-2021)

PHYLLIS CARROLL (VT) (#53)

MWM, 6'2", 185, 48, hetero. Would like to meet and correspond with TV's from Vermont and Western NH. Interests: Crossdressing and everything feminine. Will answer all mail as quickly as possible.

P. Carroll, Box 164, Ctr Rutland, VT 05701

SHARON K. (VT) (#54)

MWM, 6', 37, slim, brown eyes, understanding spouse. Enjoys crossdressing & being my other self, snow machines, & the outdoors. Life-long crossdresser, just becoming more open. Would like to hear how others have blended their feminine lives with spouses and life in general.

Sharon K. (VT-2176)

BRENDA KEITH (VT) (#53)

MWM, 32, 5'6". Outgoing, ski a lot, real busy lifestyle. A "high maintenance" TV. I moved to Vermont for the snow, but it is hard to find people to dress with. Please write if you would be interested in skiing or dressing up. I would love to correspond.

Brenda Keith, P.O. Box 4184, Burlington, VT 05406

RHODE ISLAND - CONNECTICUT

Andrea K. (RI-1771)

ANDREA K. (RI) (#53)
Single, about 5'10", 155, size 12, brown eyes, long brown hair, semi-androgynized. "I'm interested in sci-fi, investing, metaphysics, dress-up traveling. Like to dress like woman full-time, be known as a woman and be treated as one too. I am willing to meet other TV, TS, CS and talk about things. Like lingerie, high heels, hosiery, make-up."
Andrea K. (RI-1771)

Michelle K. (CT-1490)

MICHELLE KAY (CT) (#55)
MWM Hetero, 5'10", late 40's, blue eyes, light brown hair, Attractive, sincere, quiet. Enjoys swimming, cross-country skiing, music, theater, and travel. Looking for honest caring and helpful crossdressers.
Michelle K., Box 679, Avon, CT 06001

JANINE D. (RI) (#52)
5'9", 140, auburn hair, blue eyes. Enjoys fashion photography, & computers. "Would like to meet and befriend other transgendered individuals."
Jan, P.O. Box 562, Coventry, RI 02816

Robin H. (CT-1681)

ROBIN HENDRICKSON (CT) (#52)
TS, 30, 5'9", 170, married to supportive wife, enjoys being a woman. "I am interested in meeting other married TV/TS people around the CT area, and will correspond with all who write. Interested in socializing, partying, shopping, etc., and meeting others like myself."
Robin Hendrickson, P.O. Box 1011, Bristol, CT 06010

Carla G. (CT-0212)

CARLA E. GOLDSNIDER (CT) (#53)
SWM, hetero TV, 5'10". Loves to crossdress. Would like to meet TVs and females for girl talk and friendships. I live alone in small house in the country.
Carla E. Goldsnider, 3741 South Street, Coventry, CT 06238

RENEE CARROLL (CT) (#52)
SWM hetero TV, 40+, 6'+. Interests range from American history to the causes of transgenderism. Also enjoys cooking, travel and outdoor pursuits, photography, and the feminine gender role.
Renee C. (CT-0292)

SHERRY T. (CT) (#52)
5'10", 150, SWM, 35.
Enjoys photography, music, quiet nights, shopping, and partying.
Sherry T. (CT-1680)

MICHELLE N. (CT) (#52)
Married, bi TV wishes to meet other TVs for direct get-together.
Mike Nichols, Box 9011, New Haven, CT 06532 (CT-0948)

Linda P. (CT-1784)

LINDA PIERSON (CT) (#52)
32, 5'10", 150, brown hair/eyes, non-understanding wife. Discretion a must! Interested in complete dressing and learning all I can about womanhood. Wish to write and meet with understanding people. "My feelings are getting strange. My ability to deny them is all but gone. Still nervous and in need of guidance. Have P.O. box; wife does not know. Send mail to it freely!"
Linda Pierson, Box 277, Wollinston, CT 06279 (CT-1784)

DAWN H. (CT) (#52)
Attended: Fantasia Fair '84-'88
SWM, TS oriented, 42, 5'10, 145. Hobbies include reading, camping, and water skiing. "I am basically a quiet person in the beginning stages of learning about herself. Would like to hear from others in S.E. CT - both experienced and beginners. Sincerity a must. Will answer.
Dawn (CT-0858)

ANDREA (CT) (#55)
Married, 49, 5'11, 165. Enjoy sports, good restaurants, reading (especially TV literature). "I would like to get to know my sisters and look forward to correspondence or small group gatherings."
Andrea (CT-0425)

BILLIE LANE (CT) (#52)
"NY - NJ Commute Area: Looking for a house to purchase and turn into individual living quarters on a co-op basis with others."
Billie Lane, Box 4002, Wallington, CT 06492

LISA M. (CT) (#52)
SWM TV, 36, college-educated professional, still in closet.

Enjoys photography, travel, music (jazz, classical, rock and roll), theater, and correspondence. Very interested in the psychology of TV and TS behavior and thought.
Lisa M. (CT-1828)

Diane M. (CT-1812)

DIANE MAYNARD (CT) (#53)
Member: Connecticut View
DWM TV, 48, 5'6", 145. Have been crossdressing for 40 yrs. I live by myself and enjoy going to parties dressed. Am looking for correspondence and companionship.
R.G. Maynard, P.O. Box 169, Somersville, CT 06072

RAMONA (CT) (#53)
Member: Tri-Ess
Participant: Fantasia Fair
61, 5'11", 180; sometimes resemble Dustin Hoffman's "Tootsie". Enjoy oil painting, creating & altering my own (femme) clothes, and (of course) dressing!
Ramona (CT-1948)

KARIN S. (CT) (#52)
34, 5'10", 150, attractive, started electrolysis and hormones. Still feeling my way, but I'm excited about becoming "all of me". I'm scared to death! I am intelligent, creative, play guitar, am friendly and warm. Need a friend? "A friend of Bill's."
Karen S. (CT-1888)

JIM J. (CT) (#54)
5'8", 160, athletic build. Looking to correspond and possibly meet very passable TV/TS age 21-30 in Boston area.
Jim J. (CT-2032)

LORI (CT) (#54)
Tall, mature retiree, non-smoker. Enjoys all sports, especially golf and swimming. Also enjoys bridge, real estate, economics, and TV fiction. I am hoping to correspond with and meet a female favorably disposed to a shy novice crossdresser for friendship and fun. I'm also looking forward to correspondence with TVs and TSs with similar interests to share experiences.
Lori (CT-1777)

SAL CARBONE (CT) (#54)
Member: ETVC
Retired life-long TV with understanding wife. Would enjoy hearing how others started dressing and what they do now.
Sal Carbone, P.O. Box 8150, Manchester, CT 06040

LESLINA SUSAN (CT) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess, CT-View, Tiffany
SWM, 30, British hetero CD, 5'11", nice, caring, sincere, respectful, understanding, supportive. Likes to correspond/meet other CD/TV/TSs for possible get-togethers, and friendship. Would also like to hear from nice, caring genetic girls. Am interested in improving my feminine self. Enjoys photography, videography, music, special research, etc. Non-smoker, social drinker, real British lady/princess.
Leslina Susan - BIR - P.O. Box 106, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0106

HEATHER M. (CT) (#52)
WM, 34, 190. Interested in crossdressing, talking to others, and wishes to hear from all TVs, TSs who can help me come out.
Heather (CT-1882)

Charly O. (RI-2157)

CHARLY OLSON (RI) (#54)
Member: LIFE
6', 175, 39, size 16, living with understanding girlfriend. Likes fishing, boating, corresponding, photo exchanging, and dressing as much as possible. Need some pointers, and will give what I can. Would like to meet some local TV's or TS's, and discuss our "hobby". Would love to hear from all and will answer promptly.
Charly Olson, P.O. Box 1140, Coventry, RI 02816

RACHEL F. BOYCE (CT) (#52)
Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing, Fantasia Fair
Professional business person, likes life, music, dancing, shopping, and most of all crossdressing. I Would like to meet more TV/TS persons and become more aware of my own self in the process.
Ms Rachel F. Boyce, P.O. Box 985, Windsor, CT 06095

Alice C. (CT-2162)

ALICE CARD (W CT) (#54)
MWM, 5'10", 175, 38, size 18, blue eyes, blonde, crossdressing since about 13. Married to understanding wife. I enjoy water skiing, para-sailing & Beach Boy style music. Interested in crossdressing & going for walks & drives late at night. Also interested in photography & meeting other CD's with supportive wives.
A. Card, Box 673, Danbury, CT 06813

RENA V. (CT) (#54)
DWM TV, retired, 50's, size 20. Loves the feminine feeling, nylons & heels. Has video & polaroid cameras. Looking for friends.
Rena (CT-0943)

DARLENE S. ROSS (CT) (#55)
MWM hetero closet TV, 5'8", 165, 50's (appears younger), retired, gentle, sincere, on quiet side. Enjoys dressing & being feminine, loves heels, shoes, lingerie, jewelry. Wife not supportive, but aware. Interested in sports, music, reading & travel. Not passable, but would like to be. Would like to correspond with all interested as I am. (Photo exchange preferred.) Especially those in northeast. Possible meeting for friendship, support and sharing common interests.
Darlene S. Ross, 167 Cherry St, Suite 114, Milford, CT 06460

LESLINA SUSAN (CT) (#54)
Member: Tiffany, Tri-Ess
SWM hetero occasional CD, 5'11", 30, deep TG feelings. British. Caring, sincere, fun-loving, respectful, understanding, supportive, non-smoker, social drinker. Likes the girl-

rocker to fancy glamour princess look. Also like to hear from caring & understanding females for possible get-togethers and friendship. Enjoys music, photo/video-graphy, broadcasting, motor-car rallying. Likes to correspond/ meet other CT/TG/TS.
Leslie B. (CT-2057)

NICOLE S. (CT) (#55)
Member: Tri-Ess
Hetero CD, divorced, 6'2", 39. Hobbies include running, hiking, music (especially CW, excluding opera), and reading. Willing to correspond. Especially in need of contact with others who have been able to work out issues related to their crossdressing with their significant other.
Nicole S. (CT-2228)

DIANE G. (SE CT) (#55)
Member: CT View
MWM hetero CD. Enjoy meeting people like myself who enjoy being in dresses. Enjoy photo sessions as girls. Travel Eastern States.
Diane G. (CT-2163)

NEW YORK

Joan F. (NY-1220)

JOAN FASHIONS (N. NY) (#54)
Member: Tri Ess, NGA
MWM TV/TG, 54, retired. Live mostly as Joan. Travel NYC/NJ area for shopping, socials, etc. Family grown and understanding. Letters with photo will receive prompt response.
Joan Fashions, P.O. Box 1756 S. Rd Annex, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

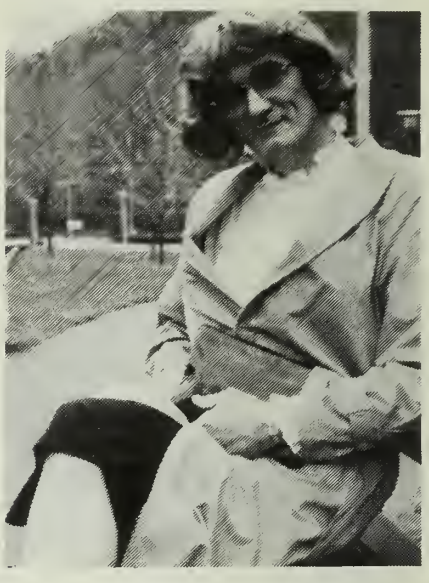
BARBARA R. EVANS (NYC) (#52)
WM TV, 37, 5'8", 155lbs. Crossdressing since 12. Honest, open-minded and willing to accept my gender issues. Interests: Music (blues, be-hop jazz, country), movies, dining out, the Ocean, spiritual growth, travelling, and women's fashions. Am in a committed relationship w/girlfriend; we're both working on acceptance. Recently came out and have feelings of guilt and anxiety. Would like to hear from others who "have been through it" (including those in support groups).
Barbara R. Evans (NY-1861)

Joanna Pauline (NY-0973)

JOANNA PAULINE (W. NY) (#52)
Member: Tri Ess, EON, TVA
Hetero TV, 40, engineer, 2 children, wife knows and is tolerant but finds acceptance hard. Interests: Photography, cinema, home video, gardening, swimming. Hopes to meet new friends at the local meetings.
Joanna Pauline, BX-STS, PO Box 15731, Rochester, NY 14615 (716) 458-7633

Vickie S. (NY-1035)

VICKIE STONE (L.I. NY) (#52)
Member: LIFE, Chi Delta Mu
6', 180, life-long TV, out of closet since 1982, married, heterosexual, 2 kids. Wife not supportive, although aware. Attorney. Interests: Skiing, writing (fiction & non-fiction), music (former pro musician), guitar, electric bass, singing, song-writing. Would like to find TV ski bums to ski upstate NY & VT. Likes to travel. Encourages correspondence and will answer sooner or later. Enjoys working with novice TVs and taking them out. Extremely active in LIFE, and is one of the editors of LIFELINES, the club newsletter.
Vickie Stone, Box 121, Seaford, NY 11785



Gretchen L. (NY-1359)

GRETCHEN L. (W. NY) (#54)
Participant: Fantasia Fair
6'1", blue eyes, 195, good figure. Enjoys bike riding, hiking and crossdressing. Would like to meet other TVs in the Buffalo NY area. Would like to have dinner out.
Gretchen L., P.O. Box 231, Celeron, NY 14720

Joanne E. (NY-1224)

JOANNE E. (S. NY) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
MWM, 56, 6', 250. Interests: "I love to dress and have done so every day for 25 years. Have very supportive wife who would love to

hear from other wives or SO's Promise to answer all with photo."

Joanne E., P.O. Box 310, Mohegan Lake, NY 10547

MICHELLE P. (N NY) (#55)

Member: TGIC

Upstate NY TV. Adores everything feminine. Seeks TV's & women for friendship and possible meetings. Will answer all sincere letters.

Michele P. (NY-1534)

Angela S. (NY-0719)

ANGELA S. (NY) (#52)

Member: EON, TVA

Events: P-Town Couples' Weekend, Joyce Dewhurst Pocono Outings, IFGE Chicago convention. Magnetically attracted to a good time, actively involved in helping other crossdressers. Supportive wife, passable at times (stopped caring about other times), always enjoy being Angela. Supportive of all crossdressing groups.

Angela S. (NY-0719)

RENEE' SLOCUM (NY) (#53)

SWM, 31, 5'11, 160, college educated, hetero, shy, not out of the closet, good sense of humor. Would like to correspond with and possibly meet other CDs and women in the Finger Lakes area to swap ideas and possibly form a local group.

Renee' Slocum, Box 977, Geneva, NY 14456

MICHELLE M. (NY) (#52)

Member: L.I.F.E.

Events: Fantasia Fair '87, '88; Tiffany Spring Outing '88, IFGE Coming Together Convention '88

I love to go out in public and pass easily. My appearance is very good, but need work on mannerisms and especially voice. Working on developing one integrated, androgenous personality rather than two extremes. Love music (popular, jazz) skiing (advanced intermediate) and all things feminine.

Michelle M., 114-41 Queens Blvd., #272, Forest Hills, NY 11375

Randi R. (NY-1814)

RANDI ROGERS (NY) (#53)

Single, 34, 6'. Enjoy sports, golf, quiet evenings, and outdoors. Live in Niagara Falls. "I am just now starting to feel good about myself. Would like to hear from others with their thoughts, ideas, and comments. I'm interested in attending parties and meetings.

Randi Rogers, P.O. Box 1473, Buffalo, NY 14240-1473

Jan (NY-1187)

JAN (NY) (#53)

Member: Tri-Ess, NYGA

Events: Poconos Weekend

SWM, 41, 5'11", 170 lbs. I like to dress lady-like and conservative for a night out with friends at comfortable Manhattan restaurants and cabarets. I also love to dress up for classical concerts and opera. Would enjoy sharing experiences.

Jan (NY-1187)

FRANCINE LORRAINE C. (W NY) (#55)

SWM, 40's, 5'10", 170, dress conservatively. Likes hiking, cooking, history, outdoors, dressing up & being feminine. Would like to correspond with others like myself. Need to accept and understand being a TV. Would welcome all TV's passing through area. Can travel and visit others.

Francine Lorraine C. (NY-1584)

Jennifer W. (NY-1597)

JENNIFER WELLS (NY) (#52)

MWM, hetero TV, 5'11", 200, blue eyes, 39. Very feminine appearing. Enjoy boating, water sports, writing poetry, building and gardening, wigs and makeup. "I like to help other TVs and TSs try and work through their problems. Am very active with TV/TS Support Group through CompuServe."

Jennifer Wells, Box 1417, Troy, NY 12181

DEE C. (W. NY) (#52)

Bi-SWM TV, 30ish, professional, college educated. Enjoys travel, clubbing, movies, video, golf, skiing.

Dee C. (NY-0708)

JULIE ANN C. (N NY) (#55)

Participant: FF '78, '88 & '89

Awards: "Best Girlfriend Award" (from my wife)

hetero TV, 50's, 5'9". I live out in the country in Northern NY, and dress often. I also enjoy my Fantasia Fair trips with my adopted sister, Winnie B.

Julie Ann C. (NY-1695)

KATHI FERRIS (N NY) (#55)

Member: TGIC

Early 50's, 5'8", slender, bisexual. Love philosophy, poetry, reading, gardening. Published poet and writer. Would like friends in the Bennington VT, low Adirondack area of NY. Will answer correspondence. I enjoy my feminine side, dress up every chance I get, but

can't come out.

c/o Susan Murray, P.O. Box 92, Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

Kathi F. (NY-1677)

Connie T. (NY-0434)

CONNIE TAYLOR (W. NY) (#52)

MWM elderly hetero TV, 5'5", 125, with supportive wife. Likes clean cut clothes and tall heels. Loves to correspond and all letters promptly answered.

Connie Taylor, Box 0734, Jamestown, NY 14702

CONSTANCE LEE (NY) (#53)

MWM, 36, hetero, interested in writing and hearing from others to whom "CD" means more than "Compact Disk". Honest, sincere, and quick as possible with correspondence. Enjoy "girl talk" through the mail. Especially interested in hints and experiences of being more ladylike, but open to any topic.

Constance Lee, Box 368, Derby, NY 14047-0368

MISSY B. (NY) (#52)

5'8", 152, medium build, mahogany colored brown eyes. Interests: Music, composing, listening, poetry, studying stock cars, meditating, exercising, observing nature.

"I love positive persons who don't put down others for their own self-glory and those who believe in uplifting another no matter the status or color."

Missy B. (NY-1716)

Winnie B. (NY-0228)

WINNIE BRANT (N NY) (#55)

Member: Tiffany, Tri-Ess, TGIC

Awards: Miss Fantasia Fair

Hetero TV, 50+, 6'2", a lady. Has many interests, scientific and culturally oriented. Loves to travel.

Mr W. Brant, Box 741, Schenectady, NY 12301

LYNDA (NY) (#53)

MWM, 35, TV. Interested in writing to and meeting with others who are interested in crossdressing. Looking for someone who could help me with same.

Lynda (NY-0775)

STEPHANIE LYNN (NY) (#52)

5'9, 36, 180, dk. blond, size 18. TV with TS desires. Sensitive and caring. "I have been dressing since pre-teen years. Not yet passable; need help with make-up and voice. Look pretty when dressed and feel very natural in a pretty dress and heels. Will answer all."

Stephanie Lynn (NY-1774)

BARBARA B. (L.I. NY) (#52)

Member: NYCGA

MWM, 48, 5'10", 160. Wife does not approve. Interests: Fashion, Music, dancing, new friends. Values friendship, honest, and discretion. Passable in public, but very nervous about it. Prefers all CD settings. just re-emerging from the closet after 3 years. Looking forward to enjoying our special sisterhood again!

Barbara B. (NY-0258)

Barbara B. (NY-0258)

Josephine C. (NY-0880)

JOSEPHINE (NY) (#53)

Member: Tiffany, Tri-Ess

Participant: Principal events in Europe and US.

Hetero, married, middle age, 5'10", engineer. Very long life as a TV. "I love shopping, gardening, cooking, cleaning, and photography. My work enables me to travel, and I would enjoy to meet others, even abroad. Will reply all mail.

J. Chara, Box 671, Tarrytown, NY 10591

CAMILE M. (SE NY) (#52)

Member: Tiffany, Chi Delta Mu Tri-Ess

Hetero crossdresser, 72, 5'10", 164, methodist, widower. Honest and security conscious. Love and enjoy people. Live by the "golden rule" and a strict moral code. Enjoy crossdressing and household repairs. Love & write music and play various instruments. Would love to meet a nice woman who will accept me part time en femme, or (better yet) as "sister companion" and sometimes as male

companion.

C.A.M. McLaughlin, Box 207, Pelham, NY 10803

Camile M. (NY-0582)

Charliss D. (NY-1856)

CHARLISS D. (Central NY) (#52)

Member: Tiffany

SWM, 45, 6', 185, size 16/18, and attractive. Enjoy music, literature, ballet, horseback riding, sailing, and skiing. World traveller. Dress often. Love elegant evening wear; passions are heels, stockings, and accessories. "A lifelong CD, but new to the culture. Desire to meet others like myself for feminine sharing. Would like more experience going out, or quiet evenings at home with another. A sharer who can receive as well as give.

Charliss D. (NY-1856)

Bonnie H. (NY-1186)

BONNIE H. (W. NY) (#53)

Member: EON

MWM, 38, 5'7", size 12, blue eyes and brown hair.

Bonnie's interests include sailing, golf, singing, and ship model building. Bonnie dresses very frequently and has the full support of her spouse. Passions are shoes and pierced earrings. Very conservative in appearance, typical of today's active businesswoman. Bonnie would enjoy corresponding with any sister.

Bonnie H. (NY-1186)

Trenna Marie (NY-0623)

TRENNA MARIE M. (W NY) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

Participant: Wine Country Weekend, CDM Pocono WE, Muriel Olive WE

65, retired, 5'8", 185, hetero, married. Have been dressing 55 years, have supportive wife. Love to go out dressed, but can't in my area. Like to write and exchange photos.

Trenna Marie (NY-0623)

LAURA STONE (NY) (#52)

TV, 43, 5'10", married. Enjoy film, art, literature, fashion, and all things feminine. Would enjoy meeting or corresponding with other TVs interested in discreet, safe outings or just plain socializing.

Laura Stone (NY-1924)

MONIQUE TELESE (NY) (#53)

Attendee: Be All '87, '88

5'11" tall, 158 lbs., naturally dark brown hair. Totally passable; starting voice lessons. Enjoy driving classic Corvette, dining out, shopping, quiet "fireplace" evenings, good wine, music, and conversation.

Monique Telese (NY-1184)

Brenda K. (NY-1887)

BRENDA KEITH (N NY) (#53)

Member: EON

MWM, 32, 5'6", outgoing, ski nearly every day in winter, motorcycle in summer. Am taking up hobie cat racing this Spring. This year Brenda has hopes of getting out more than ever. I Want to develop all aspects of my femininity. I would enjoy meeting and writing to TVs and TSs, especially those who live near ski areas and have room for a guest.

Brenda Keith, P.O. Box 168, Bridgeport, NY 13030

DELORES MERHIGE (E NY) (#53)

Member: Chi Delta Mu, LIFE, Serenity

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E, 'Coming Together'

Married, middle-aged, 5'10", medium build, engineer, life long TV. Interests: Fashion, clothes, makeup, socializing, music, art, photography, sailing, tennis, reading. Promises to answer all mail as quickly as possible.

D. Merhige, P.O. Box 327, Massapequa Park, NY 11762

Vicki F. (NY-2213)

VICKI RENEE FOLTS (W NY) (#57)
Member: TGIC, Crossroads of Buffalo
M-F TS who has been living & working full time for 1 1/2 years. I am 5'11", 32, green eyes & sandy blonde hair. Interested in corresponding both by phone & mail to other TV's & TS's. Play many instruments & write music which I record. Love shopping & fine dining & travel. Interested in helping others in any way I can.
Vicki F. (NY-2155)

LOU BETCHER (E NY) (#52)
MWM, bi, 43, 6'1", 168, brown/gray hair. Am interested in meeting other bi TVs for social times. Would appreciate photo, and would return upon request. All answered.
Lou Betcher, Box 501, Brentwood, LI, NY 11717

BETTY PRINCE (NYC NY) (#54)
WS pre-op TS, 5'7", light brown hair, green eyes. Can pass as a woman without problem, likes all sports, music, and sci-fi books and movies.
Betty P. (NY-1304)

TINA SCHULTZ (E NY) (#53)
SWM hetero, 30, 5'8", 140. Has been dressing for over 20 years. Enjoys sports, sci-fi, computers, and of course crossdressing. I'm still a novice but looking to come out and pass in public.
Tina S. (NY-1981)

KIMBERLY SHAEL (W NY) (#53)
45, 5'5", handsome, with an excellent sense of humor. Enjoys tennis, racquetball, bicycling, flying, relaxing evenings, movies, and travel. Would love to correspond with all. Would welcome all TVs passing through the area. Come visit and chat awhile. I have been a TV all my life and have only recently come to appreciate my feminine side. I love to write.
Kimberly S. (NY-2022)

KATE MORRISEN (LI NY) (#54)
Member: LIFE
MWM hetero TV, 6'1", 43, non-smoker. My wife knows, but chooses not to be involved. I would very much like to meet a special woman, a TV or TS who will accept me as Kate and become my friend. We could enjoy a glass of wine over lunch, & go shopping. I can offer advice on getting proper fitting corsets and brassieres (was trained by a licenced corsetierre in Paris). I think you'll find me interesting, happy, an intelligent person who enjoys life. Please write soon so we can share as sisters our hopes, dreams, and fantasies. You'll be glad you did!
Kate Morrisen, P.O. Box 20, Jericho, NY 11753

LILIAN FRANK (NYC NY) (#55)
Long-time CD, 45. Would like to meet or correspond with any TV's or TS's (M-F or F-M) who feel there might be a "spiritual dimension" to their condition.
Lilian F. (NY-2230)

Victoria N. (NY-1960)

VICTORIA LOUISE NORRELL (S NY) (#55)
I like who I am, what I am, and where I am, for I am Victoria and I love life. With care and planning I will effect my destiny, helping those that I can along the way to be positive wholesome people. I dress, shop, dine, travel, go to movies, concerts, and enjoy a myriad of feminine things. Would like to learn ballroom dancing. I enjoy "tinplate" railroading, and am very much in love with a beautiful woman named Carla. I live by my creed which is, "I can never be a woman but I will never be anything less than a lady."
Will try to answer all, to all I wish PEACE.. of mind.. of heart.. of spirit.
Victoria N. (NY-1960)

TIFFANY S. (SE NY) (#55)
6', blue eyes, brown hair. No drugs, no alcohol, am not gay or bi-, learning more about my female self. I am 29, and have been crossdressing as long as I can remember. I would like to meet others who could help me dress up. I am shy about my crossdressing, but have finally found the courage to accept myself for who I am. I'm just coming out for the first time.
Tiffany S. (NY-2246)

VINCENT M. (SE NY) (#54)
Single male, 6', 180, brown on brown, handsome, Italian heritage. Fine arts photographer. Looking to meet and communicate with pre- or post-operative transsexuals. Want to have fun and feel free to think and act the way we please. Let's just have fun!
Vincent M. (NY-2269)

Rachel C. (NY-2123)

RACHEL C. (N NY) (#54)
Member: TGIC
Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing, 'Coming Together'
Fun loving transgenderist contemplating transsexuality. Love to dance, shop, travel. Intelligent, sensitive and sensual. Part-time musician with full-time dreams. Have recorded songs with transgenderist lyrics - available on cassette. Would love to correspond with interested others.
Rachel C., Box 12293, Albany, NY 12212

Marjorie T. (NY-2266)

MARJORIE THOMAS (NYC NY) (#55)
SWM, 34, 5'7", 130, very passable when made-up correctly, size 8. I'm quite content to have both male and female personnas. I have typical interests for both genders. When I'm dressed, I'm ultra-feminine. Still basically in the

closet, I would like to meet others of my age in the NE section of the country. I am a private person and prefer discretion.
Marjorie T. (NY-2266)

NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Sheila K. (PA-0336)

SHEILA KIRK (W PA) (#52)
IFGE Board of Directors (Executive Committee), 'Coming Together' staff
Member: Tiffany Club, TransPitt, Paradise
Participant: Everything
Attractive TV, dedicated to this wonderful joy of dressing. I work very hard so moments of relaxation and pleasure of this sort are precious to me. I love being a TV, and I'm anxious to meet many others who delight in the same feelings.
Sheila K., Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230

ARLETTE (NJ) (#53)
SWM TV, 5'6", 36, slight build, passable. Quiet, sincere, and discreet. Educated professional. "Seeking sincere, mature, stable man for dating and romance to treat me like the woman I am. Permanent relationship possible. Will answer all. Phone number gets immediate response."
Arlette, Box 225, Holmdel, NJ 07733

NEAL MOWDER (NJ) (#52)
Single male over 60. Interested in hearing from others who are considering sex reassignment surgery and who are working through their adjustments. Would like to be your friend. I enjoy history, hiking, walking, travel, collecting Indian relics, nature, sports, and pets.
Neal Mowder, Route 57 W. Box 6, Washington, NJ 07882

Elena L. (NJ-1200)

ELENA LEWIS (NJ) (#52)
Participant: Fantasia Fair
Single bi-TV, 30s, petite. Intelligent, sensitive, and sincere. Progressive and humanistic minded. Resemble Hoffman's "Tootsie", but am much cuter. I participate in NY area parties and activities; would enjoy travel companion for visits to other places. Also enjoy quiet, romantic times with non-TVs.
Elena Lewis, Box 4805, Clifton, NJ 07015

Phyllis D. (NJ-1515)

PHYLLIS DANIELS (NJ) (#52)
Mid 40s, TV who likes to go out dressed.
Interests: Classical and contemporary music. "I am a great cook and enjoy a good wine and friends to share it." Would like to correspond with other TVs.
Phyllis Daniels, P.O. Box 897, Brick, NJ 08723

DIANE BOWERS (NJ) (#52)
Member: ETVC, Renaissance, Tiffany
TS, 36, 6', 150, blonde and blue eyed. Business professional with varied hobbies and interests. Electrolysis and hormones under way. Encourage new friends to write. Am expanding my involvement in the TV/TS community and want to share and help others if I can.
Diane B. (NJ-1642)

Joanna G. (NJ-0520)

JOANNA G. (NJ) (#53)
Member: Tiffany, Renaissance
Participant: Fantasia Fair, Tiffany events, Be-All.
DWM, 65, 6', healthy, non-smoker. Am interested in fashioning my own gowns, etc., learning knitting, and enjoy dining out, good music which would include the Boston Pops. "I have a feminine nature, like real values and relationships, and am considerate. Desire lasting, good friends; love "girl talk". Am nutritionally oriented, and consider good health to be of prime importance." Will respond to correspondence as is possible.
Joanna G. (NJ-0520)

Veronica H. (NJ-1940)

VERONICA HAMMER (NJ) (#53)
Member: Renaissance
Single, 25, 5'11", 185, PhD student in fine arts. Very active on gender oriented BBSs. "I'm a "GenderNomad". Every place in GenderLand is nice to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there forever. I have many supportive friends in the university community; am

reaching out to the gender community for support, education, and friendship."

Veronica Hammer, P.O. Box 309, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

Barbara W. (PA-1722)

BARBARA WHITE (W. PA) (#52)

Member: TransPitt

5'10", 170, brown hair, green eyes, very passable, married. "Would like to meet other TV/TS's, and have a male take me out dinner/dancing. Nothing bizarre, please."

Barbara White (PA-1722)

JANN (NJ) (#53)

Divorced; semi-retired but feels like "kid sister". Interested in femme clothes, wigs, makeup, nature, art, music, correspondence, women's issues, home decorating, learning to cook and sew. Strictly heterosexual; would like to be a woman's housewife and husband. "I need correspondence."

Jann (NJ-1602)

CHRISTINE M. (NJ) (#53)

Interests: High-end audio, sports, women's fashions catalogs and dressing. SWM, TV, 38, 5'11", 152. Gentle, sensitive, caring. About 25 years in the closet; now it's time to communicate with others in deepening my female side. Seek advice from passable TV regarding femme voice, make-up, hair, etc. Will respond promptly.

Christine M. (NJ-1933)

CATHERINE ROSEMARY D. (E. PA) (#52)

Member: Outreach

SWM hetero crossdresser, 60+, 5'9", 190. "It's unlikely that I would pass, but am interested in the world of the crossdresser, and would like to get acquainted."

Catherine D. (PA-0748)

RICKY HUNT (E. PA) (#52)

MWM, 260+, 6'2", enjoys reading sci-fi & mysteries. Also enjoys photography, old houses, electronics, cooking, computers, hiking. "Can anyone else see the humorous side of crossdressing? I love corresponding and making new friends. Write and say hello."

Ricky Hunt, Box 263, Towanda, PA 18848

DAVIDA T. (E. PA) (#52)

SWM, 38, shy and discreet. Trying to come out.

Enjoy spending my free time being as feminine as possible. I'm seeking understanding friends who may lend me a little support. Looking forward to visiting a P-town outing. My goal is to play a round of golf in a sun dress."

Davida T. (PA-0944)

Janet R. (PA-1879)

JANET ROSE (PA) (#53)

SWM TV, 46, 5'11", 149. Interests: business, race cars, domestic chores, crossdressing. I do turn into an exhibitionist in front of a camera. Would love to meet mature, understanding women for fun and friendship. Girlfriend also interested in meeting CDs/wives.

Janet Rose (PA-1879)

Robyn D. (NJ-1337)

ROBYN ANN D. (NJ) (#54)

Member: Renaissance

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E

Is the publisher of 'En Femme' magazine, has appeared on local & national television talk shows. Is an author, artist, photographer, film buff, and tennis nut.

Robyn Ann, c/o 'En Femme', P.O. Box 7854, West Trenton, NJ 08628

Alison L. (PA-1242)

ALISON LAING (E PA) (#54)

Member: Renaissance

Awards: FF Miss Congeniality

Middle age, middle sized, life-long CD. Married with wonderful supportive spouse. Enjoys arts and crafts, jewelry and fabrics. Loves to shop at fleamarkets and antique shops. Loves good food, wine, travel and dancing. "I take my gender shift very seriously and work hard to be at least unobtrusive if not passable. Most of all I try to have lots of fun and at the same time help make others in our community happy."

Alison Laing, P.O. Box 635, Phoenixville, PA 19460

Alycia Jean (NJ-2031)

ALYCIA JEAN (NJ) (#53)

Married hetero TV, 34, 6'1", size 20. Happily married to a beautiful woman. I'm hoping to attend a meeting soon (if I don't chicken out). Enjoy looking as feminine as possible. Will answer all letters.

Alycia Jean (NJ-2031)

Julie C. (NJ-1460)

JULIE C. (NJ) (#54)
MWM, 5'10", 30's, brown hair & eyes, thin. Love dressing pretty, especially in high heels. Enjoy music and meeting others like me. I also enjoy travel (especially P-town). I would love to go out more, all I need is a little encouragement. My wife helps as much as she can, but a friend would help a lot more.
Julie C. (NJ-1460)

Harriet N. (PA-1623)

HARRIET (W PA) (#55)
Member: Transpitt
Tall, thin, caring professional, size 16T, 46, athletic. I think Shelly Tall Girl shops are "almost heaven". My dream is to play tennis with Renee Richards.
Harriet (PA-1623)

ROBIN FREY (PA) (#53)
Member: Philadelphia Dignity (TS support group)
40-year-old pre-op would love to find employment and live full-time as a female. Free to travel; would love for other TVs and TSs to give me a call.
Robin, Box 1341, West Chester, PA 19380 (215) 696-6468 (PA-0932)

KATHERINE CHARLOTTE H. (NJ) (#53)
DWM, 6'1", 180, mid-40's, brown hair past shoulders, brown eyes, soft skin. Country girl yearns to come out and meet other girls. Am true-blue honest, and caring. Can travel & I long to find a place to stay until I can pass in public. Will write all.
Katherine H. (NJ-2073)

ROBIN F. (W PA) (#54)
SWM, 39, 6'1", 165. Professional. Interests: Jogging, jazz, mysteries, myth, mysticism, sports & cooking. Would enjoy dialogue with others interested in caring, non-exploitive, supportive relationships and psychology of crossdressing fantasies. Mine include frilly square dancing outfits, petticoats swirling under kilts, and ballerinas.
Robin F. (PA-2020)

Katya (NJ-2215)

KATYA (NJ) (#54)
Hi! I am a 38 year-old TV who loves to explore her feminine side. I am 5'0", 150, Bi, and a life-live-long TV. As a busy professional person I don't get to be a girl all the time but when I do I enjoy getting out and meeting people. My wardrobe tends towards the classy tailored things I look best in.
I would like to meet people like myself who live close enough to make occasional get-togethers a comfortable and enjoyable possibility. What I would really like would be to trade pictures and letters with others who are interested in sharing a little more than just fantasies.
Katya, P.O. Box 20, Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07034

LORRAINE RICHARDS (W PA) (#53)
SWM hetero TV, 5'8", 160, 31. Interested in history, books, and "how things work". Very private person. I'm happy with my male self, but it thrills me to see the contrast as Lorraine emerges. Satisfaction is seeing her and thinking "nice lady!" Would love to correspond and exchange photos with any other part-time girls who dress to be completely convincing. I've never been out dressed, but think I could pass.
Lorraine R. (PA-2131)

SUE ANN S. (C PA) (#55)
SWM hetero TV, 5'9", 150, 45. Interested in meeting TV's, TS's, & women for dining, dancing, shopping, girl talk, etc. No drugs or heavy drinkers.
Sue Ann S. (PA-1458)

Maryann K. (PA-1531)

MARYANN KIRKLAND (E PA) (#55)
Member: Renaissance
MWM hetero TV, 5'11", late 30's, auburn hair, and expressive brown eyes. Interests: Classical ballet, opera, 19th century literature, fine wines, shopping & partying with other sisters. "I'm willing to work to create a positive educated public image of crossdressing. Fond of full skirts, petticoats, crinolines and hair ornaments. Those of like interest should write.
Maryann Kirkland, Suite 401, New Woman Marketplace, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

CAMMILLE S. (W PA) (#54)
Rather middle aged (40's), plumpish leather freak who for the most part is closet bound. Love to get letters, though often forget to respond to them. Try to emulate '50s type woman, heavily padded, dressed too warmly, overly made-up, and overweight (not by design). Also like satin when found, and total feminine appearance.
Cammille S. (PA-1274)

GINA R. (NJ) (#54)
MWM, hetero, 37, 5'11", 200 (and dieting). Interested in history, classic films, comics, theology, classic rock music. I'm a closet TV just coming out. I'm not passable yet but would like to perfect my feminine self. I would like to correspond with TV's and TS's, especially in the Northern Jersey area. Will answer all.
Gina R. (NJ-2278)

Dee M. (NJ-2270)

DEE MATUSAWIC (NJ) (#54)

Bi TV, dominant, loves tight corsetry and rubber/leather ware. Deseires to meet like minded sisters and women to share good times. Am specifically looking for a select few personal maids. Photo mandatory, and phone desireable.

D. Matusawic, P.O. Box 341, Richland, NJ 08350

DONNA ROESKE (NJ) (#54)

I am a M-F TS, 53, 5'7", 145, sandy hair, shoulder length. I am married and plan to stay so. I like hiking, sailing, classical music, and gardening. I am the parent of two boys, both adopted, and both are very precious to me.

Donna R. (NJ-2277)

Brenda D. (PA-2253)

BRENDA DAVIDSON (C PA) (#54)

Member: LSV Chapter Renaissance

SWM hetero TV, 26, 5'8", 150. Passes well. National ranked motorcycle road racer. I enjoy shopping, social events, helping and welcoming newcomers into our community. Enjoys music, a movie buff, being with true friends who accept me for who I am - a mix of male and female that comes together to form a truly unique person. I am interested in meeting and corresponding with other people across the country, espcecially in the Central PA area.

Brenda D. (PA-2253)

G.J.P. (NJ) (#54)

SWM, 37, 6'4", professional, graduate level education. Interested in reading (history, politics), watching old movies, stamp collecting. Although probably too tall to pass, I have alsways been drawn to the TV lifestyle, but cannot fulfill my dreams in current situation. Have some parts of a wardrobe but no real chance to dress up. I am shy and quiet, and a little bit self-conscious. Would appreciate correspondence with other TV's on how to be more feminine, and advice on makeup, hairstyles, etc.

G.J.P. (NJ-2293)

Sue C. (PA-1536)

SUE C. (C PA) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess

Participant: Pocono W/E

58, 140, 5'10", has been crossdressing for many years. Supportive wife. My main interest is writing to & meeting others who enjoy their femininity. Have had some of the girls visit us for the weekend. Will not respond to sexually oriented letters, but will answer all others.

Sue C. (PA-1536)

MARYLAND - DELAWARE - DC - VIRGINIA - WEST VIRGINIA

ADRIENNE R. (MD) (#52)

SWM, 36, 5'11", 150.

"My idea of fun is a quiet evening drink with a friend -- both of us in skirts, heels, and hose. We're perfectly made up and chatting about chiffon dresses with nipped waists and wide rustling skirts. We may go shopping together tomorrow, or at least dream about the possibility. If this sort of scene sounds appealing, let's try it by mail first, then talk about meeting. Love letter and photo exchange with all."

Boxholder, P.O. Box 92, Laurel, MD 20707

LOLA (MD) (#53)

Member: "Gender Identity Outreach Center USA", "My Choice"

Attractive SW TV, active in the TV/TS community. Currently seeking new TV/TS friends. "I enjoy all things feminine, and helping my TV/TS friends improve their "femme" appearance, as I am a professional makeup artist and costume designer.

Lola, c/o Gender Identity Outreach Center, Box 133, Westminster, MD 21157

Lola (MD-1831)

Nancy A. (MD-2046)

NANCY ANN (MD) (#54)

Member: DCEA, W.B.A.

Participant: Fantasia Fair

Hetero CD, 5'9", 165. Interested in participant sports, softball, bowling, & table tennis. Enjoy being feminine most of the time, have dressed since 12 years old. Go to two CD meetings a month. Enjoy corresponding &

exchanging pictures.

Bob Burdick, 3511 Forest Edge Dr 1-D, Silver Spring, MD 20906

DIANE P. (MD) (#53)

Member: Tri-Ess

MWM, TV, 40's. Interested in music (plays guitar, banjo, keyboard), woodworking, restoring old cars, computers. Also enjoys correspondence.

DS Associates, P.O. Box 194, Joppa, MD 21085

MARY ELLEN (DC) (#53)

Member: Tri-Ess

MWM, 55, limited opportunities to dress; enjoy it thoroughly. Understanding wife in terms of personal underclothing. Love to read TV fiction and real life experiences of others. Correspondence will be answered.

Mary Ellen (DC-1438)

Roberta L. (DC-0972)

ROBERTA LEWIS (DC) (#52)

6'2", 36, chairperson Washington-Baltimore Alliance Interests: Bicycling, top 40, dancing. "If you're coming to DC, write me. If not, write me anyway. Also would like to hear from other black crossdressers."

R. Lewis, P.O. Box 50724, Washington, DC 20004-0724

JAYNE M. (DC) (#53)

Late 40's, 5'9", 165, brown hair, blue eyes. Finally giving my feminine side a chance to come out. Still learning, so would appreciate any help from sisters.

J.M., P.O. Box 33111, Washington, DC 20033

SUSAN REYNOLDS (VA) (#53)

Member: IFGE, Tri-Ess

Participant: P-town and Poconos gatherings

Reasonably passable. Love sleek clothing. Adore being VERY buxom when at home. I write to a number of sisters, and especially enjoy writing to those sisters who like being buxom. Am very happy and content with myself as a woman.

Susan Reynolds, Box 11160, Alexandria, VA 22312

Angela A. (VA-0736)

ANGELA CAROL ASH (VA) (#53)

Member: Tri-Ess (Sigma Epsilon Chapter)

Participant: P-Town '85, Joyce Dewhurst '84/'85, Tri-Ess Sigma Epsilon (Chattanooga) '87, '88-'89.

Awards: "Best Dressed" award, Sept. '84 Joyce Dewhurst Be All Weekend (Cleveland '87)

Blond, blue eyes, 6'0, 49, 130, dressing since age 12. Very active member Tri-Ess. Broad minded, interested in other TVs in VA, NC, TN, and KY. Friendly, professionally employed, enjoy social events, dancing, and fancy clothes.

Angela Carol Ash (VA-0736)

Kay G. (VA-0323)

KAY GOULD (VA) (#52)

Very feminine and totally passable. Enjoy all aspects of feminine lifestyle. Strong personality with ultra feminine tastes. Enjoy fine music, dining, theatre, and high fashion. "I date extensively, and travel heavily throughout the US. I appreciate male escorts in most cities. Am very accomplished in all feminine ways but am demanding in personality. I also write for several national publications."

Kay Gould, Box 8562, Alexandria, VA 22306

CHRISTINA (VA) (#53)

Member: Tri-Ess

MWM, 40s, 6', 185. Enjoy photography, big band music, collectable records, cooking, and going out dressed whenever possible. Also like to correspond with other sisters. Forming new Tri-Ess group in Richmond, VA area. Would like to attend Holiday En Femme or similar large event.

Christina (VA-1868)

Clare Q. (VA-1935)

CLARE QUILTY (VA) (#53)

TS, 6'1", slim, athletic, schoolteacher. "I am a shy, caring person who wishes to bring out my feminine self. I would like to correspond with like-minded people. Especially interested in the physical and emotional aspects of the transformation process. I enjoy reading (history and fiction), distance running, and juggling.

Clare Quilty, Box 1673, Louisa, VA 23093

PRISCILLA WENTWORTH (WV) (#53)

Member: Crossroads

MWM TV, 5'10", 170. Retired from Foreign Service. Widely travelled, broad interests. Likes to correspond with other TVs/TSs.

P.M. Wentworth, Box 687, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

ALONA VICTORIA MILLER (WV) (#53)

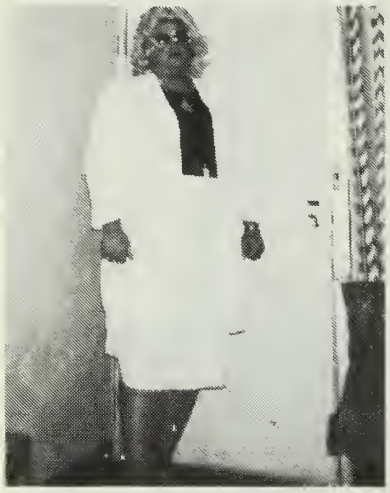
Member: Tri-Ess, IXE, Cross-Port, Trans-Pitt

Participant: IFGE 1988

6', MWM, Heterosexual. I enjoy building plastic models, miniature war games, sewing,

cooking, and improving my feminine image. I am a full-time clergy-person and would be willing to help any of my "sisters" and "brothers" accept themselves as persons of worth.

Alona V. Miller (WV-1804)



Alona M. (WV-1804)

LYNN H. (VA) (#54)

Tall, slightly overweight. "I enjoy cooking, games, and meeting people who want to enjoy positive aspects of life."

Lynn H. (VA-1318)

Kate G. (MD-1652)

KATE G. (MD) (#55)

WM, 5'8", 155, 42. Living in DC area with supportive wife; comfortable with myself. For the last three years I've been perfecting the "look" in front of a camera. I want to attend a P-town outing and maybe a local group meeting, but am cautious and have yet to get far from home.

It's time for a little adventure but I'd like some company. I hope there are other crossdressers with a similar attitude. I'm discrete but have a good sense of humor. Please write and send photo. I'll reciprocate.

Kate G. (MD-1652)

Dianne F. (MD-2229)

DIANNE FERN (MD) (#54)

MWM bi TV/TS, 50's. Enjoys small social get-togethers and intellectually stimulating conversations with TV/TS's and those who enjoy the exploration of all aspects of the femme lifestyle. Would like to meet people from the MD, DC, and VA area.

Dianne F. (MD-2229)

Karyn M. (VA-2191)

KARYN MORENO (VA) (#55)

Member: DCEA (chrprsn)

Warm, friendly and caring TV with TS tendencies. I enjoy living life to it's fullest, and try to fill my days with good friends, good food and good wine. I love being a TV and am committed to fully exploring and developing my feminine self. I'd love to hear from all TV's, TS's, and mature and understanding women for friendship, support & fun.

Karyn Moreno, P.O. Box 28141, Washington, DC 20038

LINDA COULTER (VA) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

Brown-eyed blonde, good sense of humor. Am interested in gourmet cooking, music, photography, female fashions. Will correspond with other TV's.

Linda C. (VA-0703)

RICKI F. (MD) (#53)

MWM, 55, closet to basement CD for 40 years. Looking for Ft. Wash. / Oxen Hill MD CD/TV to get help & just to chat with.

Ricki F. (MD-2137)

Phyllis L. (DE-0931)

PHYLLIS V. LARSON (DE) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

60, 6', 180, married 40 years to understanding wife. Self employed, often dresses in home & office, sleeps enfemme. Electrolysis completed, active in sailing, has raced the Newport to Bermuda race, active in Protestant church. FAA rated pilot, resides in Southern Delaware. Letters answered.

Phyllis L. (DE-0931)

TOM D. (DC) (#55)

WM, 5'9", 165, 50, light brown hair, blue eyes, fair to good looks. Stable, sincere, in good shape. Worked hard, travelled a lot, now ready to settle down and enjoy being with and caring for attractive and contented TS. I want to appreciate the opportunities of being there for you whenever it counts. Many interests and likes, actual and potential. All answered.

Tom D. (DC-2209)

MICHELLE LYNN GERALD (MD) (#53)

TS, 31. I am a shy and caring soul who desires to correspond with anyone in the TV/TS community. I am just beginning the long trek toward the complete adoption of a permanent feminine lifestyle. I would therefore be very grateful for any kind words and/or assistance provided along the way. I promise to quickly respond to any (and all) inquiries I may receive.

Michelle Gerald, P.O. Box 11737, Baltimore, MD 21206-0337

DAPHNE (MD) (#54)

TV, 26, tall, young, slim. Interests: Books, "now" music. Interested in corresponding with other curious TV's. I have only shared my secret with sympathetic SO's, and long to communicate with other folks about this. Discreet and curious.

R. Totale, P.O. Box 482, Annapolis, MD 21401

JANE A. (VA) (#54)

Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing

DWM TV, 6'2", 240, 38, brown hair, blue eyes. I used to live in Salem, MA, and enjoyed the Tiffany Club and their outings. I've been living in Roanoke VA the past two years & I miss my TV/TS friends. I am sending out an SOS! Please write!

Jane A. (VA-2169)

SHELIA W. (VA) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess

6', 180, great eyes & legs, work out regularly. Enjoys woodworking, outdoor activities, meeting people, reading. I am interested in corresponding and exchanging information and stories with others.

Shelia W. (VA-2276)

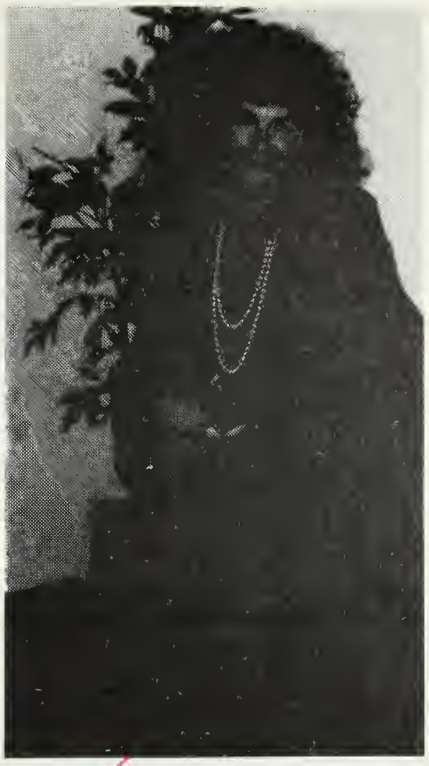
Kimberly C. (VA-2300)

KIMBERLY CARLSON (VA) (#55)

DWM, 50, 5'11", size 18, blue eyes, brown hair. Has been dressing since pre-teen years. Member of AA four years. Interested in writing to and meeting others who enjoy crossdressing. Looking for someone who could help me and who is understanding.

Kim Carlson, P.O. Box 2146, Reston, VA 22090

NORTH CAROLINA - SOUTH CAROLINA - GEORGIA - FLORIDA



Petra D. (NC-1314)

PETRA D. (FL) (#54)

Member: Sigma Epsilon Chapter

Mid-thirties, married to supportive wife with one daughter. I have recently come out after joining the local Tri-Ess chapter, but believe in the importance of sustaining the wider community of CD's and TG's. I have just moved to north Florida and would be interested in communicating with others in my area. My interests include photography, computers, soccer, wearing pretty clothes, and projecting my inner femininity outwardly.

Petra D., P.O. Box 3426, Tallahassee, FL 32315

LINDA W. (GA) (#55)

Member: Tri Ess

Age 31, married - wife is supportive but has resisted spending time with Linda fully dressed. I'm a lifelong TV, but have only begun venturing out in full dress during the last 2 years - and I love it!! Interests include running, hiking, reading (everything), Tai Chi, Jazz and blues music. The genie is out of the bottle, & this girl is here to stay! Love to all.

Linda W. (GA-1486)

KIM BLAIR (FL) (#52)

Male, married TV in mid-40s. Interests: Cross dressing with special interest in full skirts and full petticoats. "I would like to correspond with, or meet other TVs and TV couples. I like the mid-Florida area's east coast.

Kim B. (FL-1606)

SANDY JOHNSON (NC) (#57)

5'7", 140 lbs. Interested in corresponding with other TVs, TSs to achieve a better understanding and acceptance of our community.

Sandy Johnson, 4832 Park Rd., Box 293, Charlotte, NC 28209

Sandy J. (NC-0906)

Jennifer R. (FL-0739)

JENNIFER REECE (FL) (#52)

SWM, tall but good looking as either sex.

Interests: Motor boating, diving, tennis and being all femme or all male. Would like to meet an understanding woman or TS and have a good time.

Jennifer Reece, P.O. Box 10296, 57th Ave, Bradenton, FL 34282

LINDA S. (SE FL) (#52)

6', 180, 60+. Interested in feminizing personality and psychological thinking. Looking for help in resocialization as a woman.

Linda S. (FL-0938)

Cynthia S. (FL-1848)

CYNTHIA SILVA (FL) (#53)
SWM, hetero CD, 60, 5'9", 200 lbs.
Member: Tri-Ess
Interests: Working with my computer and amateur radio, VHF mobile, dressing whenever possible. Would like to meet or correspond with other hetero CDs, TVs, and understanding GGs for femme talk, improving my femme personality and appearance, and have photo sessions. Would like photo but not necessary.
Cynthia Silva, Box 13737, Tampa, FL 33681-3737

Rachel C. (GA-2016)

RACHEL CUMMINS (GA) (#53)
Member: Dixie Belles - Chattanooga
I have been enjoying life for 45 years. Have raised three children with the help of an exceptional spouse. When not traveling, Rachel can be found at the Ham radio station, playing weird programmer on one of my 20 odd personal computers or dancing '50s style at the local pub. Rachel and spouse have been on several outings and hope to go on more. I would like to correspond with other sisters and perhaps visit others while on business.
Rachel Cummins, P.O. Box 80294, Conyers, GA 30208-8254

Dianne K. (GA-1298)

DIANNE KENDALL (GA) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
Life-long TV, willowy, sensuous, very feminine with extensive, fashionable wardrobe including much precious lingerie - mostly pink - and heels for every outfit and occasion. Wants to meet, correspond with and talk to TVs, TSs, and GGs who love and appreciate the feminine as much as I do. Also write stories about boys being sweetly dressed as girls by girls. Let's be girls together in Atlanta or elsewhere.
Dianne Kendall, 3220-A Post Woods Dr, Atlanta, GA 30339 (404) 988-0667

JOAN ANN OTTLAND (NW FL) (#52)
Member: Tri Ess
SWM, 5'10", 50's. Enjoys swimming, cycling, history, music, bridge, calligraphy. Recently widowed and TV active. Interested in corresponding with other middle Gulf Coast heterosexual TVs, or empathizing age group GGs.
Joan Ottland, Suite 129, 8084 N. Davis Hwy E3, Pensacola, FL 32514

ROBBI (FL) (#52)
S/W/Hetero TV, 30, 5'10", 130. Long shapely legs, loves high heels, hose girdles. Would like to correspond with all into same interests. Would like to meet with any sisters in south Florida area.
Robbi (FL-1864)

DINA E. STONE (FL) (#53)
Pre-op M-F TS, 38, 5'6", 150. Extremely trustworthy, patient, and methodical; architectural professional. "My reclusive half-life in Florida is burdensome; I need relocation to a less restrictive environment. (Love Atlanta.) I like: honest people of any gender, lifestyle, or race; non-destructive fun, children, art, music, and my femininity.
Dina Stone (FL-1946)

Robin B. (FL-0611)

ROBIN B. (C FL) (#54)
Member: Tiffany Club, Emerald City
MWM hetero, tall, slender. Interested in most everything. Wife totally despises TV/TS scene. I would love to hear from others who "confessed" to wife after 20 years.
Robin B. (FL-0611)

Dawn Y. (FL-1393)

DAWN YOUNG (E FL) (#54)
MWM hetero TV, 40, 6'1", 170. Loves everything feminine from short skirts to long dresses and heels. Would enjoy meeting and corresponding with others.
Dawn Young, P.O. Box 1355, Vero Beach, FL 32961

DON AMECHE SCOTT (FL) (#52)
6' tall, pecan tan, 28, 180 lbs. Enjoy bike riding, movies, and walks. Interested in corresponding with TSs and TVs.
Don Ameche Scott, Box 1626, Jacksonville, FL 32201

Frances T. (NC-1245)

FRANCES T. (NC) (#54)
Member: ETVC, Tri-Ess
Participant: Coming Together, Be All
Late 30's, 5'7", 140. I pass very well and enjoy shopping and chatting with store clerks, manicurists, hair dressers, etc. who know me. I flew dressed to my last convention and look forward to doing the same next year. I also enjoy browsing through women's magazines and dress catalogues. I am not keen on written correspondence.
Frances T. (NC-1245)

KRISSY (E FL) (#53)
46, 5'10", considered very attractive, progressing into she-male status, very sensitive, caring, neat. Professional. Seeking correspondence and possible meetings with all especially interested in she-males and serious TVs in the Vero Beach area. Please send photo. TV education and sharing of feelings a plus. Someday I would like to form a club & possibly publish a TV publication.
Krissy B. (FL-2067)

MS DALE LARSON (C FL) (#54)
Member: Central FL Sisters (President)
Heterosexual post-op M-F TS. 55, 5'11". Would like to hear from all crossdressers in Florida.
Ms Dale Larson, 11 Westchester Dr., Kissimmee, FL 34744

VANESSA THOMAS (C FL) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess Orlando, Central FL Sisters
Married, 40, can't dress at home because of older children - but do attend meetings out of area. Getting a better wardrobe and can pass a little. Would like to be fully a woman. Would like to meet other TV/TSs. Will answer all letters.
E.B., P.O. Box 1076, Venice, FL 34284-1076

BETH PHILLIPS (FL) (#54)
WM TV, 5'11", 175, 57. Wish to contact & correspond with other TV's & TS's in the Tampa Bay area.
Beth P. (FL-2185)

JACQUELYN NOWLING (FL) (#54)
Member: Sigma Epsilon
Mid-50's, 6', 180. Interests: Wine making, reading, & being "Jacque". Travel FL extensively and would like to write & meet all sisters possible. Wife is very supportive and active in wives support group in Sigma Epsilon.
Jacquelyn N. (FL-2063)

D-Jae S. (GA-2126)

D-JAE SHERE (GA) (#54)
MWM, early 40's, 5'8", 180, travel much. Love to meet people, make friends, correspond, etc. Technical career, likes aviation, ham radio, outdoors, etc. Goes out occasionally, dresses often (away from home). Wife is great lady, but doesn't accept/approve yet. Love to hear from y'all.
Jae Shere, P.O. Box 89, Lithia Springs, GA 30057

BOBBI RENEE LONG (SC) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
Age 54, mostly public, passable CD. Married. Love to shop and go clubbing dressed.
Bobbi Renee Long, P.O. Box 210276, Columbia, SC 29221

GERI McGREGOR (NC) (#54)
Divorced, white, career person, 5'4", 140, 39, red hair, blue/green eyes. Life-long crossdresser, just coming out and in need of help with makeup, etc. Possess very strong TS feelings. Love all things feminine. Other likes include cats, plants, music, and intellectual conversation not to mention long walks and romantic evenings. Seek correspondence and meetings from like-minded sisters and women. Desire companionship from a tall, very understanding professional male.
Geri Mc. (NC-2136)

Samantha B. (FL-2288)

SAMANTHA B. (FL) (#55)
MWM, 46, 5'11", 175. would like to meet & correspond with other TV/TS's. Extensive wardrobe. Crossdresser for years with supportive wife. Would like to start attending events & become more invoved.
Samantha B., P.O. Box 651024, Tropic Branch, Vero Beach, FL 32962

Joan J. (FL-1703)

JOAN J. (SW FL) (#55)
SWM hetero TV, 5'11", 150, 38. Enjoys ballroom dancing, exercising, golf, yoga. Sincere and considerate. Wishes to socialize with TV's, TS's and women in the Central

Florida area.
J. Jessip, P.O. Box 22412, St. Petersburg, FL 33742-2412

CATLIN MICHELLE WHITFORD (NC) (#54)
SWM CD, 6'2", 38, 215, blond, blue eyes. Seeking correspondence from all CD's with particualr interest in NC, SC, VA. Seeking tender, understanding S.O. Possible marriage? Send picture, and will reply with same.
C. Whitford, P.O. Box 733, Bridgeston, NC 28519

BRENDA W. (NC) (#55)
SWM, late 30's, brown hair, blue eyes. Life-long crossdresser attractive and sincere by very shy. I would like to correspond with other TV's and share our experiences. Would love to meet a really pretty, passable TV, TS or an understanding, caring woman. Please share your femme side with me.
Brenda W. (NC-2301)

RACHEL MORGAN (NC) (#55)
Almost married WM, 23. Beginning to discover the joys of integrating the positive aspects of being a woman into my male personna. Not comfortable with "going public" yet, but I am comfortable with being a TV. Enjoy sci-fi, especially Bradbury, Clarke & Herbert. Love music esp. Pink Floyd. Would like to correspond with other couples who have overcome the problems inherent with being a TV in a relationship, and those who have developed a mature balanced approach to crossdressing.
Rachel M. (NC-2272)

KATHY ANN KELLY (GA) (#54)
6', brown hair/eyes, nice legs. Loves to dress, wants to be as feminine as possible. Needs companionship.
Kathy Ann Kelly, P.O. Box 957265, Duluth, GA 30136-9522

ALABAMA - MISSISSIPPI - TENNESSEE - KENTUCKY - ARKANSAS

ANNE ARMSTRONG (AL) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
70, 5'10". Still closeted and would appreciate letters. Will reply quickly.
Anne Armstrong, P.O. Box 7331-A, Birmingham, AL 35253

EVE HYDE (TN) (#52)
Mature professional male, 5'10", 160, very discreet. Has a variety of interests.
Eve H. (TN-1733)

PATTI (KY) (#54)
MWM, 34. Could be passable with good makeup job. Good figure. Interested in music, dance, psychology, and vegetarian cooking. I would like to correspond with other TV/TSs for friendship, support and information exchange.
Patti (KY-2035)

BARBARA (MS) (#53)
Member: Tri-Ess, Crossroads
Participant: Texas Tea Party
MWM 5'11", 170, brown eyes/hair. Love to go out dressed, passable at times - will answer all & look forward to making many new friends.
Barbara Ann B. (MS-1945)

Barbara B. (MS-1945)

Samantha T. (TN-0934)

SAMANTHA T. (TN) (#52)
Member: SLGF, Dixie Belles
39+ years young, 5'8", use own long hair, very active in womanly role, deaf, taught how to speak & lip read. Interests: Fashions, arts, collecting anything which attracts my attention, my lovely house. I am hoping to make some friends in Western/Middle Tennessee, Western Kentucky, and neighboring states. I am living close to "land between the lakes" national recreational park. Will answer all letters.
Samantha T., RT 2 Box 103B, Buchanan, TN 38222

STEPHANIE RENEE' (AR) (#57)
5'8", 145, 36, brown hair/eyes. Married; wife understands & is very helpful; still needs a little education on subject. 4 children, 4-19. Would like to meet other sisters from the general area for help & friendship. Have corresponded, but not yet met anyone. Interests include all aspects of being a woman.
S. R. Fowler, Box 1835, Springsdale, AR 72765

Stephanie Renee (AR-1841)

Randi S. (AR-1708)

RANDI S. (AR) (#55)
Member: CDI
SWM, Bi-, 5'11", 155. Lifelong CD, brown hair & blue eyes. I wish to contact sincere femmes, & boys who would rather be girls. Enjoy shopping, quiet evenings, & girl talk. Interested in childhood dressing experiences & and freelance writer.
Randi S. (AR-1708)

HOLLEY MARIE H. (KY) (#53)
WM Pre-op M-F TS, 5'9", 150, brown hair & eyes. Living full time as a woman. Enjoys art, theater, bicycles, sports cars, travel. Also likes shopping, sexy clothes, and all types of music. Wants to meet & correspond with TV/TSs, and find a romantic gentleman.
Holley Marie H. (KY-2026)

CRYSTAL DAWN BOYD (TN) (#53)
Pre-op, M-F TS, 30-ish. In prison, going up for parole in January '90; could make release with a little help from you. Especially need your help with work-release and parole plan. Would like very much to settle in Nashville or Memphis area. If you think would like to help a lady get a new start (and be herself again) or have any helpful information, PLEASE contact:
Crystal Dawn Boyd, c/o T.D. Boyd, #101461, Rt. 2, Fort Pillow, Henning, TN 38041. If returned for any reason, please re-

mail to T. D. Boyd at the above address.

Crystal Dawn B. (TN-1701)

Linda B. (KY-2001)

LINDA BUTEN (KY) (#54)
Member: Cross-Port
Participant: 'Be All', 'Coming Together'
MWM TV, 37, 6', 180. I enjoy meeting & corresponding with anyone interested. I've been in public for years and my adventurous nature has given me a complete understanding of myself and others. My wife and children know, understand, and love Linda as an extension of my jovial personality. You can usually find me at the IFGE convention & the Be All weekends. I also enjoy dating tall, well-mannered gentlemen who know how to treat a lady to the finer things in life.
Linda B. (KY-2001)

Leslie G. (MS-2138)

LESLIE GILL (MS) (#54)
Member: Beta Chi, Tri Delta Chi
MWM, 33, CD since 6, married with understanding and supportive wife. Wants to find other crossdressers in Mississippi. Will answer all correspondence.
Leslie G. (MS-2138)

SANDRA B. (TN) (#55)
MWM, 50's, 6', 170, blue eyes, considered very attractive, professional pilot. Interests are classical music, opera, art, travel, tennis, collecting antiques. Avid audiophile. I wish to meet & correspond with all who are sensitive, understanding, and who love to dress.
Sandra B. (TN-1640)

CINDY LEE (KY) (#54)
MWM 6', 160, blond, blue eyes. Enjoys fashion, photography, sports, auto racing & boating. I love being dressed in fancy dresses, high heels & nylons. Enjoy being a girl. Would like to correspond with CD/TV/TS's with like interests.
Cindy Lee, P.O. Box 20256, Louisville, KY 40220-0256

OHIO - INDIANA - MICHIGAN

TONI H. (OH) (#53)
Single, 6'1", 195, 58. Closet executive TV wants to meet same with understanding wife for dressing, dinner and conversation. If you have a private place within 50 miles of Columbus, you have a new friend.
Toni H. (OH-1066)

LYNN SHERMAN (OH) (#52)
Single TV, 31 yrs. old, 145 lbs., dark hair, green eyes. "Quiet and educated but a good conversationalist with compatible people. Looking for TVs and women interested in all things feminine. Also enjoy reading and sports."
Lynn Sherman (OH-1244)

Lynn S. (OH-1244)

Michelle M. (OH-0954)

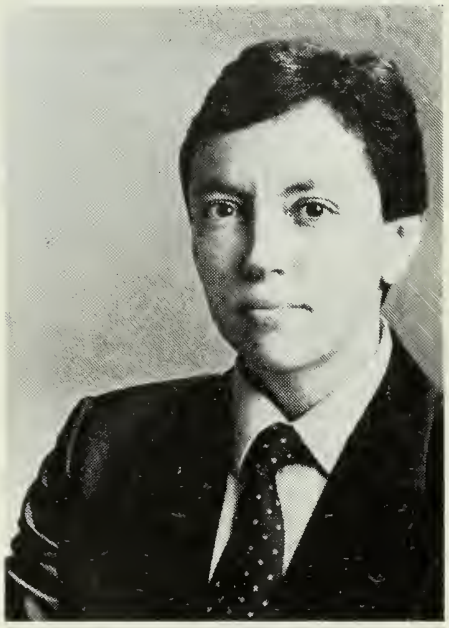
MICHELLE M. (S.W. OH) (#54)
Member: Paradise, Cross-Port, Tri-Ess.
Hetero married crossdresser, 5'9", 170, educated, friendly. Married 15 years to an "A" wife who accepts and helps. An original organizer of Paradise. Enjoys crossdressing, hi-heels, "girl talk", and picture taking sessions. Needs help to enhance feminine voice. Interested in meeting other married crossdressers in SW Ohio.
Michelle M. (OH-0954)

DIANA COOPER (OH) (#52)
MWM with TS desires. Work in data processing. Interests: fishing, camping, boating, football, baseball, softball, racquetball, and cooking. "I would like to meet other TVs and especially TSs to help me to determine my own gender. Also need help coming "out" and obtaining hormones (or finding a doctor that'll help).
Diana Cooper, Box 483, West Chester, OH 45069

FRAN (OH) (#52)
"Past 60 - 5'9" - trimming - shy. Wonder if too late to go through this at this age?"
Fran (OH-0848)

Arlena S. (IN-1466)

ARLENA MARIA STARCHILD (IN) (#54)
Member: IXE, Cross-Port, IPA
I am a bi-gendered person who wants to correspond with and meet with other sisters to discuss our mutual feminine desires, needs and aspirations. I am a very caring, understanding and loving sister who will help any and all sisters. I am experienced in all aspects of being my feminine personality. I will answer letters very promptly.
Ms Arlena Maria Starchild, P.O. Box 47103, Indianapolis, IN 46247-0103



Dan R. (IN-1802)

DAN RILEY (IN) (#52)
Member: IXE, IFGE Staff
Female CD, 39. Sincere, caring individual. Interested in corresponding with other female-to-male CD's/TS's. Enjoys hiking, dancing, T'ai Chi Ch'uan, talking with others and helping others "coming out".
Dan Riley, (IN-9999)

RANDI (MI) (#53)
Member: Crossroads
M/M, 5'11", late 30's, dark hair, brown eyes, educated professional who travels frequently.
Interests: Outdoor activities, music & golf. "I like to talk and meet with others, attractive and experienced in the feminine persuasion, TV and TS."
Randi (MI-1074)

Yvonne C. (IN-1009)

YVONNE COOK (IN)
IFGE Director of Operations, IFGE Board of Directors, Chrmn Finance Committee
Member: Chi Chapter, CrossPort, IXE, TGIC, ETVC.
Participant: Chicago Spring Fling, "Be All", "Coming Together".
Friendly and sincere individual who enjoys all people who are involved in gender issues.
Yvonne C. (IN-1009)

DONNA BALL (MI) (#52)
42, 5'8, size 10, 137, very feminine, more TS than TV. Interests? Dressing, dressing, dressing in conservative but sweet feminine clothes. Would like to meet other TVs/TSs in Detroit suburbs.
Donna Ball, Box 00896, Rochester, MI 48309

TRACI F. (IN) (#52)
SWM, 34, enjoy shopping, movies, sports, music. "Lifelong TV, just learning to accept who I am, still very much in the closet."
Traci F. (IN-1869)

MICHELLE MICHAELS (IN) (#52)
Married TV, 39, with 3 children. Spent 25+ years in the closet. Active in support groups such as IXE and Renaissance. Struggling with issues of weight control and self-esteem. Now a recovering substance abuser with 8 "clean years. Desire to correspond with TVs and TSs who believe there may be a connection between their gender struggles and chemical substance abuse.
Michelle Michaels, Box 8091, Richmond, IN 47375

CHARLINE D. RIMES (MI) (#52)
SWM, 5'5" tall, Hazel eyes, 35 years old. Participated in the CGA Spring Fling. Interests include spray painting, carpentry, work, bowling, and shopping for clothes.
Charline D. Rimes (MI-1605)

DONNA KAY HILL (MI) (#53)
Member: Crossroads
DWM, pre-op, 6'4", 200 lbs, long brown frosted permed hair, pierced ears. Have started hormones and electrolysis. Am learning to be me and would like to hear from other sisters. A college graduate, employed in civil service, I enjoy fishing, boating, hunting, running, the outdoors, and my two dogs.
Donna Kay Hill (MI-0829)

Jennifer Ann N. (MI-1165)

JENNIFER ANN NELSON (MI) (#52)
Member: Tri-Ess, Crossroads
MWM TV, 5'11", 165, 50, brown hair, blue eyes, college educated professional. "I travel extensively. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and socialize with our sisters. I love to dance and party, enjoy fine dining, theater, and fashion shopping. I am comfortable in all situations. I love being feminine and living as Jennifer. I also appreciate male escorts in my travels. I would be happy to correspond and share with you."
Jennifer Ann Nelson (MI-1165)

BOBBI J. (MI) (#52)
6'4", 225 lbs. "I'm making the transformation to allow my femme self to surface. I enjoy shopping, girl talk, and travel."
Bobbi J., P.O. Box 2594, Livonia, MI 48150

Patricia J. (OH-1225)

PATRICIA JOHNSON (OH) (#53)
32-year-old CD, WM, 5'10", 175. Love silk, satin, and all things feminine. "Would like to correspond, swap photos, and possibly meet others interests in TS and TV. Letter with photo gets mine and immediate response."
Patricia Johnson, Box 731, Norwalk, OH 44857

Milesa P. (MI-0976)

MILESA PHAR (MI) (#52)
Member: Crossroads
Married TV. Enjoys photography, good conversations and correspondence. "I am now outreaching as a guest lecturer at universities in Michigan. Also developing network and referrals with counselors."
Milesa Phar, P.O. Box 196, Garden City, MI 48135

MARCIA RAYE (MI) (#52)
SW TV, 31. Interests include hiking, tennis, music, and cooking. Enjoy femininity and feminine attire. Also enjoy little girls' and baby clothes. "Have attended regional weekends and would enjoy sharing my experiences with others. I am especially interested in corresponding with other crossdressers who are sealing with telling significant others and being content with their crossdressing."
Marcia Raye (MI-1654)

TAMARA JEAN MCINTYRE (MI) (#52)
Member: Crossroads
"I am a fun loving, earth redhead who loves to travel. I enjoy fast cars and auto racing, meeting and talking with other sisters. I would enjoy hearing from my sisters around the country. My work allows me to travel and I would enjoy meeting many of my sisters."
Tammi McIntyre, P.O. Box 2261, Monroe, MI 48161

TERRI SUZANNE SCOTT (MI) (#54)
Member: Crossroads
Participant: 'Be All'
Personable lady who enjoys life and grows more confident in her feminine being every day. Life's goal is to become an active member of society as a woman. Actively working towards that goal. Interested in correspondence only with other women who have accepted themselves and are working towards similar goals.
Terri Suzanne Scott, P.O. Box 728, Birmingham, MI 48012

Diane F. (OH-1339)

DIANE K. FERGUSON (OH) (#54)
Member: CrossPort
5'7", 135, 31, blonde hair, blue eyes, single - never married. I am a serious pre-operative TS, desiring to correspond/meet, and discuss items and topics of mutual interest. I love skiing, dancing, movies, and going to nice restaurants.
Diane K. Ferguson, P.O. Box 4617, Maineville, OH 45039-4617

GLORIA LYNN GIBSON (IN) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
SWM, tall, auburn hair, hazel eyes. Enjoys camping, hiking, reading, golfing, movies. I'm hoping to meet an understanding and sympathetic woman. Also look forward to meeting and sharing girl talk with 'sisters'. Wish to explore my femininity more deeply. Just coming out and looking for mutual support.
Gloria G. (IN-1480)

RITA O'BRIEN (IN) (#53)
Member: CGS, IXE
Participant: 'Be All', 'Coming Together'
SW M-F TS, 49, 6', 190, brown hair, blue eyes. Strong TS orientation, sharing & caring, willing to reach out to others. Corresponds across the country, loves camping, reading, C&W music, travel. Try to answer all letters.
Rita O. (IN-1183)

RHONDA JEAN ECK (OH) (#53)
MWM, 37, 5'11", brown hair, blue eyes, has crossdressed since 16, but still in closet. Interests: golf, reading, crossdressing (naturally). Looking for open, honest communication with other sisters to provide mutual support.
Miss Rhonda Jean Eck, P.O. Box 292844, Kettering, OH 45429

DEE R. (MI) (#53)
WM, 40, 5'9", brown hair, blue eyes. Collects military history (books and pamphlets), stupid movies, and Japanimation (cartoons).
Dee R. (MI-1916)

Michelle A. (OH-2025)

MICHELLE ANTHONY (OH) (#54)
5'9", 159, dark hair & eyes. Enjoys music, dancing. Recently came into my own as a TV, but have been dressing for years. I'm really a novice looking for exchange correspondence, pictures and to join a group. Would like to meet TV/TSs in Ohio area. Reply w/photo to get mine.
Michelle Anthony, P.O. Box 322442, Columbus, OH 43232

LUANNIA RUNNELS (MI) (#53)
Pre-op M-F TS, 6'4", 160, born 8/7/57, brown hair, blue eyes. Interested in metaphysics, medicine, Jungian psychology, astrology. I've been completely aware of the nature of my problem for some time now, and would like to help others to better understand the more esoteric aspects of transsexualism - it is <u>not</u> an accident!!!
Luannia R. (MI-2026)

DEBORAH ANNE K. (IN) (#54)
Member: IXE
MWM TV, 48, 5'9", 150. Inexperienced but learning how to present my other self.

Need training on makeup, care of wigs. Limited travel due to job, wish to meet others for support.

A. Kinsey, P.O. Box 550, Roanoke, IN 46783

Cher (OH-2083)

CHER (OH) (#54)

40's, 150, 5'10", sense of humor, intelligent, likes good food & wines.

Cher (OH-2083)

Jeanine D. (IN-2100)

JEANINNE D. (IN) (#53)

Member: Cross-Port, IXE

Participant: 'Be All'

Sensitive and caring person, good education. Somewhat macho background and occupation makes crossdressing even more delightful. Enjoys music, sports, humor, travel, dancing, occasional shopping, and most of all crossdressing. I crossdress for the sheer fun, relaxation and delight of it all. Feel more lighthearted, gentle and fun-loving when 'en femme'. No guilt feelings at all. Enjoy meeting and corresponding with other CD's. Photo appreciated.

Jeaninne D. (IN-2100)

Catherine A. (OH-1770)

CATHERINE L. ANDREWS (OH) (#56)

Member: Transpitt

Participant: Be All, Lambda Ball

MWM CD, 5'7", 170, 45. As a life-long CD I have accepted myself for "who I am". I enjoy meeting new people and corresponding. Deeply committed to the IFGE. I enjoy outreach programs and working for the good of our entire community.

Catherine L. Andrews, 8511 Pinegate Way, Huber Heights, OH 45424-1155

Jaimie D. (OH-2140)

JAIMIE DOUGLAS (OH) (#54)

SWM TV, 5'10", 160, 24. I am interested in corresponding with all TV's and possibly getting together with crossdressers in the Central Ohio area. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Jaimie D. (OH-2140)

KIMBERLY ANN B. (IN) (#54)

Member: IXE

MWM hetero TG, 5'9", 40's, perfect size 12, passable. Kim very much loves to be dressed and enjoys nice feminine clothing. Also enjoys good friends. Have very supportive wife. Enjoy going out shopping, and to plays, and the theater as Kim. Would like to hear from others across the country. May be slow answering, but will answer all.

Kimberly B. (IN-1032)

Amanda L. (OH-1670)

AMANDA LYNN (OH) (#55)

Member: Paradise Club

SWM Bi-TV, still in closet and need friends. Would especially like female to help and build a lasting relationship. I smoke and am a social drinker. I bowl, golf, and enjoy the quietness of fishing. I am interested in hormone treatment. Enjoy all fem clothing, but get into looking slutty (sorry). PLEASE, no photo collectors. Only sincere people need to reply.

Amanda L. (OH-1670)

VANESSA K. WILL (IN) (#54)

Member: SLGF, Double Image

CD, 5'9", slender, blue eyes, blond, passable in public, very discreet & expect same. Interests: Lingerie, corsetry, high heels, enjoy role playing & shopping with girlfriend. S IN, S IL, & W KY, can travel, looking for someone to share experiences with. Also interested in meeting real women interested in CD's.

Vanessa W. (IN-1166)

DENISE Mc. (MI) (#54)

SWM TV, 5'11", 185, 37. Trying to understand my feminine side, need understanding sister to help me. Love to dress up but no one to share with.

Denise M. (MI-2171)

JOANNE M. (OH) (#55)

6'0", 155, 35, blonde hair, blue eyes, TV with very strong TS desires. Interests: Sports, feminine fashions, and learning more about being a woman. Would like to correspond with and possibly meet pre- and post-ops, and also sympathetic females to help me further my feminine feelings.

JoAnne M. (OH-2212)

ILLINOIS

Eve B. (IL-0523)

EVE B. (IL) (#52)
IFGE Board of Directors, Chrprsn Educational Resources Committee
Member: Chi Chapter, Outreach, CGS
Participant: Fantasia Fair, 'Be All', 'Coming Together'
Awards: Miss DREAM '77 & '80, FF Miss Congeniality, FF Miss Best Dressed, Miss Fantasia Fair
Eve is an elegant fun-loving girl who 'exists' 2-3 days a week. Enjoys shopping, dining out, and traveling the Mid-West and West. Does many presentations with Naomi O. (IL) before professional and college audiences to help 'educate' on our lifestyle. Has appeared on television in Cleveland, Boston, Philadelphia, and Minneapolis. Eve plays golf and tennis.
Eve B. (IL-0523)

KIMBERLY ANDERSON (IL) (#52)
5'7", 115, lt brown hair, blue eyes.
Interests: Baseball, football, dining out (although I love to cook), shopping, visiting historical places, sunbathing.
"Am very tired of being in this closet. Need help with everything! Would like to meet TV-TS's in Chicago area who are active in the Community."
Kimberly A. (IL-1669)

JENNIFER SUMMERS (IL) (#53)
Member: Chi Chapter
Divorced, 38, 5'9", blue eyes, professional, self-employed. Enjoys reading, bicycling, classical music, and outings. I would like to explore new friendships as a woman.
Jennifer Summers, Box 263, 606 West Barry, Chicago, IL 60657

Naomi O. (IL-0257)

NAOMI O. (IL) (#52)
IFGE Board of Directors, Chrprsn Legal & By-Laws Committee
Member: Chi Chapter (President) Crossroads, Paradise, Outreach.
Participant: Fantasia Fair, "Be All", 'Coming Together'
Awards: Miss Fantasia Fair, Miss Congeniality
A Chicago area attorney who loves the better things in life. Am personable and understanding. Enjoy travel, photography, food (still can't stand beets or Brussels sprouts), fashion and jewelry (it's the gypsy in my soul). Active in mid-west crossdressing activities; have appeared on radio and television in Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Boston, Philadelphia, and Minneapolis.
Naomi O., Box 342, Chicago, IL 60690

Gloria W. (IL-0613)

GLORIA WRIGHT (IL) (#53)
Member: Tri-Ess (VP Chi-Chapter), CGS
Participant: "Be-All" IFGE Conventions, Holiday En Femme
Awards: 1st Runner-Up Miss CGS 1988, 1st Runner-Up Miss Windy City GGA.
Heterosexual TV, 36, 5'3, passable, fun loving, hard working. Enjoy singing, dancing, jogging, photography, karate, science, and writing. I love correspondence, but all of the above stuff has stifled my response time.
G. Wright, Box 172, Gumee, IL 60031

JENNIFER B. (IL) (#53)
Member: CGS, Chi Chapter Tri-Ess
Participant: Fantasia Fair
Awards: FF Miss Best Dressed, FF Miss Femininity
SWM TV, mid-50s. I look great and feel great about being Jennifer.
Jennifer B. (IL-2074)

SUSAN MACDONALD (IL) (#54)
Pre-op M-F TS, 43, 6'2", 150, on hormones 8 months. "I would like to hear from other TS's (pre- and post-op) who share my interest in the outdoors, cats, classical music (renaissance & baroque), and cool jazz.
Susan MacDonald (IL-1463)

Barbara B. (IL-1980)

BARBARA DIANE B. (IL) (#54)
Member: Chi Chapter
Participant: Holiday En Femme
Hetero TV, 28, 5'10", 143, contemporary woman of the '90s. Barbara is a very caring, wonderful person. Enjoys photography, fishing, and dancing. Will try and answer all who write.
B.D. Beers, P.O. Box 2002, Des Plaines, IL 60017

TERESA BEATRICE K. (IL) (#53)
SWM, late 30s, 6'+. Super tech: programmer, chess player, sci-fi. I am a closet TV trying to decide if I should come out of the closet or if my PC is enough.
Teresa K. (IL-1969)

DEBBIE WOLF (IL) (#53)
43, 5'10", 170, married. Enjoys hiking, photography, camping, as well as crossdressing and my feminine side. Would like to hear from other married TV's about family interaction with feminine self.
Debbie W. (IL-1978)

Karen R. (IL-1514)

KAREN MICHELLE R. (IL) (#55)
Member: Chi Chapter
Participant: Holiday En Femme
A couple of years older and wiser. Feeling good about who I am. I still believe that being Karen is still what it's all about - now more than ever. I love to help my sisters. I've heard from so many. Hope to hear from you - yes you! I wouldn't mind letters from real girls and TS's too!
Karen R. (IL-1514)

Patrika W. (IL-2166)

PATRIKA W. (IL) (#54)
SWM, 6'3". Interests: Sports, music - having fun with my fem self - sometimes dressing sexy, and other times passing as a grandma. Love to exchange letters and photos with other TV's who want a nutty girlfriend.
Patrika W. (IL-2166)

Geri W. (IL-1400)

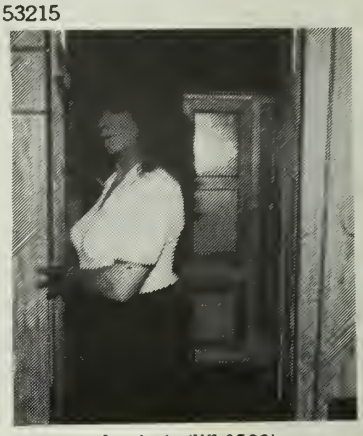
GERI WATERS (IL) (#55)
Member: SLGF
6', 190 (and losing), brown hair, hazel eyes, Leo, good natured. Enjoys art, writing, cars, good friends. Looking for sisters & friends in the St. Louis area to share ideas and get-togethers. Pass well in public and enjoy going out. I'm also a columnist for a national publication.
Geri Waters, 5 Chambers Blvd, Belleville, IL 62221

Cindy H. (IL-1757)

CINDY SUE H. (IL) (#55)
Member: Chicago Gender Society, Chi Chapter Tri-Ess
MWM, 41, 6', married to understanding & loving wife. Attractive, fun loving, outgoing.
Cindy H. (IL-1757)

WISCONSIN - MINNESOTA - NO. DAKOTA - SO. DAKOTA - MONTANA

LINDA LEE ATHIE (WI) (#55)
TS, 5'7", 165-175, blue eyes, brown hair or whatever color wig I decide to wear. Born August 1949. Interests: All things feminine, history of WW2, war gaming, and photography. "I wish to correspond with any one who wish to write to me, and to contact those to whom I have written to in the past. I wish correspondence, no personal meetings. I do answer all."
Linda Lee Athie, Box 15784, Milwaukee, WI 53215



Linda A. (WI-0529)

*Michell (MN-1911_*

MICHELLE (MN) (#53)
MWM CD, 6'2", 185, brown hair, brown eyes, friendly. Coming out of the closet with a supportive wife. I would like to meet and correspond with crossdressers in northern MN and throughout the country.
Michelle (MN-1911)

VANESSA S. (MN) (#52)
5'11", 160, brown hair & eyes, 40, size 16, passable, hetero CD. I love to shop for anything feminine and enjoy the classic stylish look. I'm happily married to a beautiful, supportive, accepting wife. I'm presently finishing my degree in counseling, and intend to work exclusively with gender issues. My wife and I are devout Christians, and are willing to help other couples if we can. I love my femininity and have found that I became a much happier, more complete person upon allowing my femme self to emerge.
Vanessa S., Box 11771, St. Paul, MN 55111-0771

REGINA (MN) (#53)

41, 5'8 1/2, 142. White, gender-conflicted, closet TV, 3rd yr. law student. "I love classical music and Celtic, English, and European ballads of 19th/early 20th century. Also history, theology, poetry, and literature. Love elegant, classical femme attire; need help with makeup. Political libertarian, cultural conservative."

K. Schwartz, 1166 Hewitt Avenue #305, St. Paul, MN 55104

Wendy St. C. (MN-2068)

WENDY St. CROIX (MN) (#54)

Bi TV, 38, 5'9", 145. I am looking for a special person who is honest, loving, and tender to share our special feelings. I will write to everyone who sends an honest letter and photo. I could also use some help with makeup and dressing. I travel a little, so please write from anywhere.

Wendy St. Croix, P.O. Box 1161, St Paul, MN 55101

KATHERINE H. (MN) (#52)

Member: CLCC, MFGE

SWM TV, mid 30s, 5'10", strawberry blonde, feminine, attractive, passes easily, life-long TV, musician, executive. Loves movies, music, plays, clothes, good food, golf, tennis, travel, books, conversation. I am interested in meeting other TV/TSs. Love to date as girl or guy. Travel all over U.S.

Katherine H. (MN-1994)

JENNIFER SHANNON HOLLEY (MN) (#52)

Member: CLCC

TS, 5'7", 130, 18, non-smoker. "I look beautiful in my feminine wardrobe. Enjoy fashion magazines, music, skiing, and sports. Just out of the closet. I would like to meet other TSs & TVs for friendship and correspondence. Also interested in females for the same. I will do light travel in MN, N. IA, and W. WI.

Jennifer Holley, c/o Tim Potter, P.O. Box 26263, Minneapolis, MN 55426

JANET LYNN H. (WI) (#54)

SWM, 33, professional person. Have been crossdressing for as long as I can remember. I have a partial wardrobe. Am into traveling and photography. Would love to spend some time with another sister working on makeup and style. Am not passable at this time but am trying very hard.

Janet H. (WI-2141)

Kristen S. (MN-2275)

KRISTEN SMITH (MN) (#54)

SW hetero CD, 42, 6'2", 175. Professional. Non-smoker and drug free. Enjoys dressing up as often as possible. Have not gone out. Other interests include computers, electronics, inventing, working on cars, housework, cooking, sewing, working on my feminine self and just an all around handy person. Very interested in sharing thoughts and general conversation involving our feminine self with others. "Have keyboard - will type." Will remain very confidential and expect the same.

Kristen S. (MN-2275)

Melissa J. (MN-2264)

MELISSA JACOBSEN (MN) (#55)

Member: CLCC

Pre-op TS, 36, 6', 155. I have attained my feminine self, on hormones, have had electrolysis. I enjoy travel, modeling, word processers, entertaining, photography, music, dancing, and social evenings of wining and dining with other TV's and TS's that are experienced in feminine persuasions. Will also give advice to those just starting. Men and women please write also. Need new social friends, and will be pen pals with those that would like to communicate.

Melissa Jacobsen, 510 Center Ave E. #309, Dilworth, MN 56529

WENDY P. (MN) (#54)

MWM, 5'10", 175, 26, brown hair & eyes. Interested in meeting others who are into CD & TV lifestyles. I would like to meet with those who are passable and can help me to be passable also. I love high heels, garters, and the soft feel of silk and lace. I would like to join a Twin Cities area club. Please write; will answer all.

W. Peterson, Box 617, Stillwater, MN 55082

MISSOURI - IOWA - NEBRASKA - KANSAS

Angela J. (MO-1162)

ANGELA JOHNSON (MO) (#53)

Member: St Louis Gateway Femmes "My interests are Photography, softball, bowling, weight training. I would like to hear from all TVs, TSs, crossdressers & sympathetic women to write and share experiences and problems."

Angela Johnson (MO-1162)

DEBRA ANN (NE) (#52)

MWM 44, 6'2", 205 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes. Interests include bicycle riding, jazz and classical music, railroads, and the outdoors. "I have a fairly understanding wife. I would like to get more involved in CD; just do it occasionally and don't have any clothes that fit yet."

Debra Ann (NE-1655)

KAREN CASEY (IA) (#53)

Member: Tri-Ess, Iowa Artistry

MWM, 47, 6'3", 210 lbs, married 21 yrs, senior systems analyst.

Interests: Photography, cooking, reading, music and chess. I hope to correspond with some new interesting sisters, perhaps develop some lifetime friendships.

Karen Casey, P.O. Box 7224, Grand Station, Des Moines, IA 50309

Karen C. (IA-1170)

Christina B. (IA-1253)

CHRISTINA MARIE BOUCHIER (IA) (#55)
Member: CLCC, CGS
Attendee: "Be All" '88, '89
TS, 5'11", 43, brown hair, blue eyes. Receiving hormones and electrolysis; attend Minnesota Gender Program. Accepted as Christina by siblings, mother, and close friends. Will start fulltime life as a woman in early 1990. Absolutely love dancing, writing, socializing, sharing and expressing my pure feminine nature. Interested in meeting TS sisters and fun, confident guys who love to dance!
Christina B. (IA-1253)

DEE KAY (NE) (#52)
5'9", 150, 39, married, hetero, monogamous. Interests: Politics, world affairs, Sci Fi, clothes. "I'm fun loving and a good listener. I would like to correspond with and meet others in the eastern Ne, W. IA, and KC area. Totally discreet and others must be also.
Dee Kay (NE-1583)

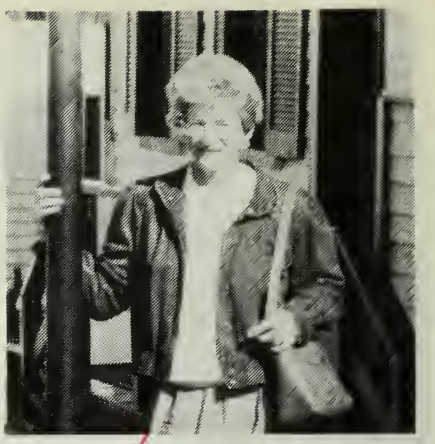
MARGARET (NE) (#52)
5'7", 210#, just coming out other than home. Married, 4 children, ages 24 to 9. Interests: Golf, swimming, meeting often with our Group. "I hope to attend a meeting in Chicago in Fall if things work out. I work for the Railroad as a brakeman."
Margaret (NE-1589)

NANCY (KS) (#54)
WM, 37, 5'9", 175. I've been dressing from childhood and enjoy doing so. Have travelled a great deal; enjoy meeting new people and sister TVs who enjoy the female mystique.
Nancy (KS-2189)

Nancy (KS-2189)

Judy A. (NE-1179)

JUDY ADAMS (NE) (#53)
Member: Tri Ess, River City
Participant: 'Be All '86,'88, P-town Outing '86.
DWM, 5'8, 140. Interests: Music, computers, woodworking, TV psychology, recruiting new sisters to our Midwest group, helping new sisters, integrating female self into male side. Would like to hear from sisters, especially from those within 250 miles of Omaha. I love femininity and want to learn as much as I can about it.
Judy Adams, Box 1305, Belleview, NE 68005 (NE-1179)



Jane N. (KS-0694)

JANE NEWMAN (KS) (#52)
M-F TS, late 50's, 5'7", 140, masters degree, living as a woman 60% of time. Very supportive wife. Interests: Spending time in public as a female, especially with spouse. Also, symphonic music, theatre, movies, & dinners. I'm TS, but committed to my heterosexual marital relationship. Tend to be a fairly private person, with minimal personal meetings with others. As time permits, willing to share my experiences with others. Dedicated to educating others about crossdressing.
Ms Jane Newman, P.O. Box 67088, Topeka, KS 66667-9988

Beverly W. (IA-1230)

BEVERLY WAYNE (IA) (#53)
Member: Iowa Artistry (President), Tri-Ess
Participant: Holiday En Femme, 'Be All'
MWM, 37, 5'10", married to accepting wife. Advertising professional. Love going out to dinner, movies, dancing, TV parties, meeting others, helping newcomers understand and come to terms with crossdressing. Have active group, Iowa Artistry.
Beverly Wayne, P.O. Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

Becky C. (KS-1346)

BECKY GAIL C. (KS) (#54)
Member: Gemini II Crossdresser's Club
5'6, 167, 38C-33-36, 40-ish. Artist, writer, sculptor, love being a "Ms". Would like to meet KC area girls to share fantasy, secrets, and girl talk. SASE and picture, please?
Becky Ann, c/o Gemini II, 418 Linn St., Leavenworth, KS 66048

Alisha P. (IA-2071)

ALISHA P. (IA) (#53)
Married hetero TV, late 30s, 6', 146, blue eyes, 2 children. Been a crossdresser for 30 years but still in the closet. Love satin and lace, corsets, formal wear and bridal. Sew and design my own creations. Pics available.
Alisha P. (IA-2071)

Barbara C. (MO-1913)

BARBARA ANN CHRISTENSEN (MO) (#53)
33, 6', and overweight. Brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys photography, reading, writing. Would like to correspond with other TVs and CDs. Would very much like to become passable in public.
Barbara Ann C. (MO-1913)

MARCIE H. (NE) (#53)
Single, pre-op M-F TS, 27, 6'4, 175, friendly but shy. Enjoy space, science fiction, astronomy, and everything having to do with learning to live as a woman. "I've stopped denying my femininity. I would love to make friends with others who have gone through this. We could share some insights and maybe a little moral support."
Marcie H. (NE-1938)

JAN G. (KS) (#54)
Semi-passable on a dark night. Would enjoy corresponding with sisters that have like interests.
J. Gladfelter, P.O. Box 47353, Wichita, KS 67201

BERNICE M. (MO) (#53)
TS/TV, 40s, 5'9", 130, brown hair & eyes, shy, single, long hair. Lives alone in the country, wears only female clothes even as a male. Have nearly finished electrolysis. Enjoy playing guitar, gardening, collecting, corresponding with other TV/TSs.
Bernice M. (MO-2018)

KELLY SHIN (KS) (#53)
Married CD, mid-30s, 5'9", 150, size 14. Passable and attractive TV. Loves going out and enjoys being treated like a lady. Would like to hear from sincere sisters with like interests to exchange experiences, feelings, and photos.
Kelly S. (KS-1966)

Janet B. (IA-2091)

JANET BAKER (IA) (#53)
Member: Iowa Artistry
MWM, 39, 175, 5'11", college grad, urbane, coarse. Enjoys ceramics, gardening, hiking, art, erotica. Would like new friends for dressing, movies, conversation, and the usual mundanities.
D.R., P.O. Box 334, Ankewy, IA 50021

LOUISIANA - TEXAS - OKLAHOMA

Michelle R. (LA-1827)

MICHELLE RYAN (LA) (#52)
Member: Tri-Ess
MWM 5'8", 155, 35 yrs old, college educated. Enjoy all things feminine. Just out of the closet and really enjoying it. Married to a very understanding and accepting woman. Would like to write other TVs and possibly meet (especially couples).
Michelle Ryan, P.O. Box 78126, Baton Rouge, LA 70837

Jayne M. (LA-1176)

JAYNE MILLS (LA) (#53)

Member: Tri-Delta-Chi, Salmacis

Hetero TV, 40, living in New Orleans area. New to the world and need help from GGs, TVs, and TSs learning how to improve my transformation. Been dressing for years; out of the closet 3 years.

Jayne Mills (LA-1176)

Lee M. (LA-1618)

LEE M. (LA) (#52)

Member: Tri Delta Chi

White male married to understanding and supportive wife. Member of Board of Directors of Tri Delta Chi chapter of Tri-Ess, now forming in the New Orleans area. Will respond to all correspondence.

Lee M., c/o Tri Delta Chi, P.O. Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187-1300

Lisa H. (LA-1717)

LISA HART (LA) (#52)

SWM hetero TV, 35, slim athletic build. Successful, attractive male professional. "Would like to meet attractive females who like men who enjoy crossdressing. I've never been out and about as a female, but the idea is appealing. Will respond promptly to potential femme friends, especially in the New Orleans area.

Lisa H. (LA-1717)

CHARLENE PITRE (LA) (#52)

Size 16, 5'8", 58, 155; blue eyes, brown hair. Recently widowed; now stepping out of that dark closet. I am TS and have this wonderful feeling about myself. Would like to share it with the right person.

Charlene Pitre (LA-1922)

TRACY (LA) (#54)

MWM TV, 5'11", 190, 42. Educated; wife does not understand. Enjoy all things feminine. Would like to correspond or meet with sisters to explore the range of feelings unique to special people like us.

Tracy (LA-2147)

KAREN SCOTT (KS) (#54)

WM, 5'10", 170. Retired widower with master's degree. Former coach, captain USAF, stockbroker, 15 years in merchant marine. Have dressed "in the closet" since teens; wife was very understanding. First time in public was at a Tri-Delta-Chi meeting. Would value friendship with any TV or TS.

Karen Scott (KS-2139)

JANICE HILARY RUPARD (TX) (#52)

IFGE Board of Directors (Alt)

Member: Boulton & Park (co-founder), Outreach

MWM TG, 5'9", 160, size 18, 60 going on 40. Sensitive, with a gentle, caring nature. Interests: Classical music, playing 'big band' and jazz (alto and bari sax), photography and everything feminine. "Since I retired, living alone, I've worked very hard developing my femininity. Now, Janice goes most everywhere and does everything. I shop, work, travel by air or by highway - you name it. I'm not the fastest respondent, but I always answer all. Your photo will be enjoyed."

Janice Rupard, P.O. Box 63112, Wetmore, TX 78163

Janice R. (TX-0567)

Jane F. (TX-1250)

JANE ELLEN FAIRFAX (TX) (#53)

Attendee: 'Coming Together', Holiday En Femme, Texas T-Party

President, Tau Chi Chapter, '88 - '89

41, 6'2", 210, chestnut hair, green eyes, professional. "Jane's interests include church work, duplicate bridge, choral singing, spectator sports, and pre-40's music. She is also an amateur mineralogist, medieval historian, and an avid Sherlock Holmsian. She and her actively supportive wife would like to correspond with other couples.

Jane Ellen (TX-1250)

MICHELLE H. (TX) (#52)

Member: Boulton & Park, Tri-Ess (Tau Chi), ETVC.

6'2", 185, brown eyes and hair. Enjoys

golf, swimming & beaching, travel, shopping, correspondence. Lives in the Houston TX area & travels the state of Texas regularly.
Michelle H. (TX-1446)

MARY LEE (TX) (#55)
5'10", 160. Size 14/16. Ex-military. Still earning a living although 60. Avid reader. Enjoys Crossdressing, things regarding gender assignment and adoption, feminism, and Christianity & its view of TV/TS. Will answer all letters but it sometimes takes me a long time.
Mary Lee, Box 532535, Grand Prairie, TX, 75053-2535

BETTE LEE JOHNSON (TX) (#52)
IFGE Board of Directors, Chrmn Programs Committee, 'Coming Together' Staff
Member: Dallas Chapter Tri Ess
Attractive TV, 50's, sensitive, caring, outgoing, and very comfortable in the joys of being a woman. "I enjoy the pleasures of being dressed and feeling feminine, and am told I pass well. Enjoy parties and socials with other TV ladies, and being in public en-femme (with discretion). Am now dedicated to serving 'our' world and in particular, helping those who are just starting to come out, and who may need help and advice."
Bette J. (TX-0543)

TINA MARIE STRICKLAND (TX) (#52)
Stand a short 6'2" tall and of dominating proportions being the age of 33 for the past 3 years. Enjoy amateur radio, bicycling, building custom show cars and crossdressing.
Tina Marie Strickland (TX-1788)

KIM KELLY (W. TX) (#52)
Bi-TV, 5'8", 170. Enjoys spectator sports, TVism, travel. Lived in Puerto Rico 20 yrs. Can entertain or travel. Would like to join TV group in El Paso area. Will answer all letters ASAP.
C.R. Kelly, P.O. Box 12113, El Paso, TX 79913

NANCY COLE (TX) (#53)
5'9", 165 lbs., 35 yrs. old W/M
Nancy Cole (TX-1795)

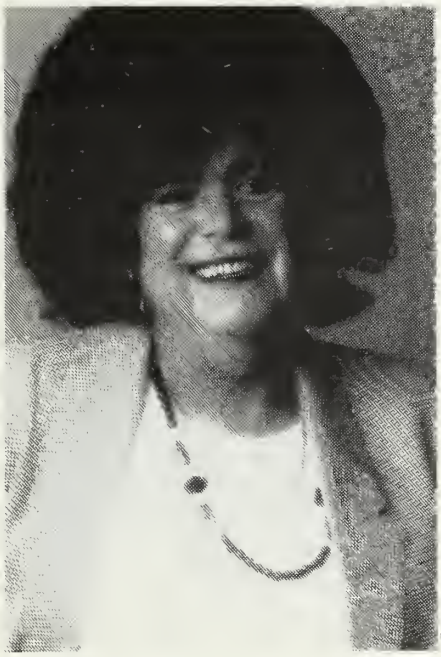
MICHELLE T. (TX) (#52)
Member: Tri-Ess
Attendee: Chicago Holiday En Femme
Tall (6'3") TV, 40, 180#. Interests: clothes, computers, tennis, games of all kinds. Love to meet friends of all kinds but would especially like to meet an understanding female who would help guide me to become a better "woman".
Michelle T., Box 5933, Ft. Hood, TX 76544

STEFANIE (TX) (#53)
W/M, 5'6", 140, brown hair/eyes, olive complexion. "Looking for friends; need someone to have a little girl talk. Still in closet, but wants to come, need advice and help. Will answer all who write."
RSM, Box 58170, Suite 1041, Houston, TX 77258

JILL (TX) (#53)
5'10", single, white, 26. Well educated, discreet. Recently moved to Texas from Nashville, TN. Looking for new friends. Interested in meeting attractive TVs/TSs. Travel South Texas.
Jill (TX-2043)

Paula J. (OK-1620)

PAULA J. JOHNSON (OK) (#52)
SWM TV, 5'8", 30s, brown hair, blue eyes. Interests: Music, computers, photography, dancing, all things to do with crossdressing. "Will correspond and exchange photos with everyone. Am currently trying to establish a TV/TS support group or social group. Seeking help and contact with people in the OK area.
Paula J. (OK-1620)



Rene F. (TX-0989)

RENE' FENNER (TX) (#52)
Member: Tri-Ess, GCTVC, CHIC, Boulton & Park
Participant: 'Coming Together', Texas 'T' Party, Fantastic Adventure W/E
MWM, 58, 6'1", 200. Go to restaurants and travel frequently as Rene'. Wife knows but is not approving. Always trying to improve feminine image. Also enjoy amateur radio and fishing. Will answer any correspondence received.
R. Fenner, 100H, 10502 Telephone Rd, Houston, TX 77075

STEPHANIE SMITH (TX) (#53)
5'7", blue eyes, brown hair, 32, 150. Enjoy chess, skiing (water/snow), ham radio, and meeting people with similar situations. "I'm a genetic male who has from earliest memory been fundamentally female. Plan to seek SRS; appreciate any assistance in dealing with this issue.
Stephanie Smith (TX-1870)

FRANK HAND (TX) (#52)
SWM, 27, 5'8", 175 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes. Interests include sports, travelling, listening to music, reading, and quiet evenings at home. "I am interested in corresponding and possibly meeting an attractive TV or TS. No age or race preference. All replies answered."
Frank Hand (TX-1598)

JACQUELINE ANNE ALLEN (TX) (#53)
Member: Boulton & Park
Strawberry blonde, 5'9", 77Kg (I think - anything to avoid the fact!), brown eyes. Interests: cars, jazz & classical music, politics, westerns, kids. "When I first started dealing with national organizations I intended to become a good correspondent. Result - failure! I would like to hear from you, though."
Jacqueline Anne Allen, Box 6948, San Antonio, TX 78209

JOANNE RUSSELL. (OK) (#52)
TS, 35, 145, 5'7", black hair, hazel eyes, shy.
Interested in computers, woodworking, games. Could pass with a little help. Would love to be able to go shopping, dine out, and any feminine activity. Have never met or talked to a TS or TV. Will answer any letter.
JoAnne R. (OK-1550)

ELIZABETH (OK) (#52)
SWM, 36, 6'1", 210, size 20. Interested in finding persons for support and to share in the fun of becoming a woman. Like to go out on the town for dinner, dancing, shopping, and just being a woman everyday. Looking for women to share in the fun.
Elizabeth (OK-1830)

SAMANTHA W. (TX) (#53)
IFGE Board of Directors
Member: Delta Omega
Participant: Dream, Fantasia Fair, Be-All, Shangri-La, Coming Together.
Married TV, 5'1", size 20, age 50, active in Dallas area crossdressers group. Enjoy my children and travelling in my RV in addition to my crossdressing. A sporadic correspondent.
Samantha W. (TX-0779)

MONIQUE (TX) (#53)
Age 53. I'm a life-long TV who has never met another TV or "passed" in public.
Monique (TX-1944)

SIGRID W. (TX) (#54)
Over 55, 5'10", brunette hair. Have attended events where both TVs and TSs were present. Will answer all intelligent letters from TSs and TVs on things of common interest.
Sigrid W. (TX-1248)

GINNY ALLISON (TX) (#54)
Member: Boulton & Park, Tri-Ess
Participant: Texas 'T' Party
Since moving to Texas I've enjoyed getting out of the closet and meeting more & more sisters. I would like to correspond & meet with more.
Ginny A. (TX-1223)

Leigh Anne K. (TX-1971)

LEIGH ANNE KOSLEY (TX) (#53)
41, 6'2", 210, hazel eyes, size 18 dress and 14 shoe. Active military. Enjoys theater, model railroad, music, aerobics and racquetball. Interested in corresponding with others of the same interest. Would also like to meet a woman who would like to share the same likes and life.
Leigh Anne K. (TX-1971)

CHERYL CLARK (TX) (#53)
Member: Boulton & Park, Heart of Texas TV
Married heterosexual CD, 5'8", 147, 40's, blue eyes, blond hair. Enjoys sport cars, guitar playing, pleasant & honest people.
C. Clark, P.O. Box 373, Manchaca, TX 78652 (512) 892-6454 (leave message for Cheryl Clark)

MAXINE MCDONALD (TX) (#55)
Member: Delta-Omega (Dallas)
Attendee: FanFair (11 yrs.)
Awards: Ms. Most Helpful, Outreach Award
Am into pipe organs, broadcasting, video production, streetcars, computers. I write letters to legislators and generally lobby for the interests of our community.
Occupant, Box 2171, Dallas, TX 75231

Joanne H. (TX-2081)

JOANNE HARLESS (TX) (#53)
5'10", medium build, nice looking in either gender, athletic. I adore the soft & gentle aspects of femininity. I especially love feeling feminine. I would like to know others with similar interests. A friend or two in this would be all I could ask.
JoAnne Harless, P.O. Box 515205, Dallas, TX 75251

Marlina M. (TX-2211)

MARLINA DAWN MURPHY (TX) (#54)
Member: Heart of Texas TV, Boulton & Park
MWM, 6'2, 195, 48 & dreaming of 21 again, size 16-18. Enjoy fishing, gourmet cooking, music, photography, and dressing. Have a very sensitive, supportive wife who helps me with every aspect of becoming the lady I want to be. Active in central and south Texas. Am interested in helping others, even it's a chat on the phone.
Marlina (TX-2211)

GINA FRANCAIS (OK) (#54)
SWM CD, 35, 6', 148, friendly but shy. Would like to start friendship with other TV/TS. Enjoy listening to music, riding bikes. Need advice, will correspond. Wish to join organization in Oklahoma.
G. Loveland, P.O. Box 702044, Tulsa, OK 74170-2044

Rikki S. (TX-2201)

RIKKI SCOTT (TX) (#54)
Late 40's, professional man, lifelong CD with tolerant spouse. Enjoy classical and jazz music, sailing, psychological and family history aspects of gender dysphoria. Doing research into gender dysphoria; would appreciate all contacts and info (especially family history) on your CD experience.
Occupant, Box 26031, Austin, TX 78755

Carol B. (TX-2179)

CAROL BAKER (TX) (#54)
WM, 5'11", 145, ash blonde. Very outgoing; love being a "girl". Love to talk with others and help them to "come out" if a CD. If not a CD, I want to help them understand our ways.
Occupant, Box 1424, Waco, TX 76703

REHA ELLIS (TX) (#54)
Member: Heart of Texas TV
Participant: Fantastic Adventure Houston
SWM life long CD, 5'11", 155, 30's. Enjoy

going public, still learning. MS degree, loves to talk about feelings and the adventurous Reha. Enjoy correspondence with all TVs & TSs, and showing a girl around Austin. Please Write.
Reha E. (TX-2109)

Debbie B. (TX-1284)

DEBBIE BROOKS (TX) (#53)
Sensual and sincere TG. Inventor (patented), entertainer, and artist. Slightly old fashioned, especially regarding manners. Will respond quickly to letters from GGs; ASAP to others.
Debbie Brooks, Box 530106, Grand Prairie, TX 75053

Janell S. (TX-2173)

JANELL S. (TX) (#54)
SWM TV/TS, 25, 5'9", 145. Size 11, feminine body, but still needs help to pass. Live alone and dress constantly when at home. Hope to start hormones soon. Will answer all.
Janell S. (TX-2173)

MARY B. (TX) (#54)
MWM brunette, 5'10", mid-30s, size 12. Married, semi-passable. Hobbies include computers, painting, and kayacking. Enjoy all things feminine - hose, lingerie, skirts, and heels. Still shy and learning. Would be happy to correspond with anyone TV or TS.
Mary B. (TX-2194)

COLORADO - UTAH - WYOMING - IDAHO

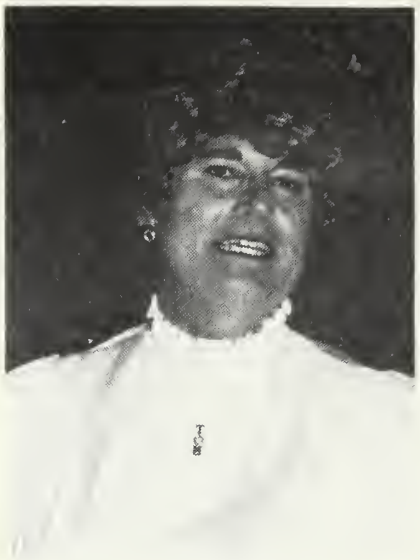
A. THOMAS ELLIOTT, JR. (CO) (#53)
I need to learn more about the legal and psychological issues associated with crossdressing and transsexualism.
A. Thomas Elliott, Jr. (CO-1914)

Mary Ann L. (UT-2120)

MARY ANN L. (UT) (#54)
Member: Alpha Provesta Tri-Ess
Attendee: Chicago Holiday En Femme
31, 5'8", 130. Active in local Tri-Ess chapter. Enjoy going shopping and out in public dressed. Becoming very passible. Would like to meet other TVs/TSs in Salt Lake area as well as those visiting the area.
Mary Ann L. (UT-2120)

LAURA S. (CO) (#55)
MWM, TS-tending TV, 41, 5'10", 160, brown hair, blue eyes, size 12-14. In and out of the closet several times over the last 10 years. Love being feminine. Mostly passable; voice needs work. Wife has gone from supportive to almost hostile. Enjoy rock/soft rock music, cooking, gardening, flying, skiing, scuba, and most sports. Looking for sincere friendships. Will correspond.
Laura S. (CO-1556)

TOMMIE FRYE (WY) (#53)
Member: Tri-Ess (Delta)
Participant: Be-All
Single TV, 49, 6'0, 38B-33-39 figure. Enjoy lingerie, heels and hose, particularly panties and bras. Also photography, historical and model railroading, and military history. Would like to meet, correspond, and exchange photos world-wide. I will answer all.
Tommie F. (WY-1158)



Tommie F. (WY-1158)

Shirley K. (CO-0494)

SHIRLEY K. KNIGHT (CO) (#55)
Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing, Texas T-Party, GGA Spring Fling
SWM TV, 47, 5'8", friendly, fun, and feminine. Enjoys traveling, church activities, and going out in public dressed.
Shirley K. Knight, P.O. Box 1042, Pueblo, CO 81002

KINNY LEE S. (ID) (#53)
Participant: '88 Fantasia Fair.
59, 6', 200, lifelong TV. Interests include rebuilding planes, cars, etc., travel, and crossdressing. "I have been alone for too long. It was refreshing to talk with another real live TV."
Kinny Lee S. (ID-1800)

CHARLENE S. (WY) (#53)
5'8", 160, 55, single. I live on a small ranch, love outdoors, and crossdressing. I can travel and am looking forward to beautiful people. Will answer all letters and pictures.
Charlene S. (WY-2069)

Davi B. (ID-2078)

DAVI B. (ID) (#53)
CD that loves to shop for clothes. Going to a mall is the best part of my week. I also skate. Looking for some pen pals.
Davi B. (ID-2078)

JEAN C. (WY) (#53)
Single female, 30s. Enjoy gardening, writing, reading, and cats. Am willing to help CDs in whatever way I can. I strongly feel that people should have a right to dress and look the way they want! Though not myself a CD, maybe I can offer support (even if only a letter) to all you wonderful people in Tapestry-Land.
Jean C. (WY-1551)

BRENDA L. (UT) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
34, 5'6", 135, brown hair. Been crossdressing for 23 years. Just joined Tri-Ess and attempting to meet other CD's and learn to understand myself better.
Brenda L. (UT-2258)

ARIZONA - NEW MEXICO - NEVADA

CHERI K. (AZ) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
5'9", 180, 40, brown hair and eyes. Passable but need to improve. Enjoy women's fashions, camping, and "elevator music". In/out of closet, nearing divorce from unaccepting wife. Have "passed" in large shopping malls.
Cheri K. (AZ-2214)

WENDI DANIELLE PIERCE (AZ) (#53)
IFGE Chairman of the Board of Directors
Member: A Rose
Participant: "Coming Together", "Be All", Fantasia Fair, Texas T-Party
Single post-op TS, 5'8", 150, 40. Interests: Travel, camping, writing, popular music, photography, computers, cooking, shopping, public speaking and exploring beautiful Arizona. Co-founder of 'A Rose', public speaker at university level on crossdressing and transgender issues, very active in TV/TS Community. I welcome correspondence from all sincere individuals although I cannot promise a quick response. My motto is "GO FOR IT", and I have!
Wendi Danielle P., c/o A Rose, P.O. Box 4351, Scottsdale, AZ 85261

Wendi P. (AZ-1072)

Jennifer (AZ-1056)

JENNIFER (AZ) (#53)
DWM, 6', 170 lbs, 44, warm, sharing and caring.
Interests: Enjoys good food, music, cuddling, and dressing to the max. Good wardrobe - extensive lingerie, heels, wigs, makeup, etc. Would like to meet other TVs or TSs.
Jennifer (AZ-1056)

GEORGIA B. (AZ) (#52)
5'6", 145, 37, brown hair, hazel eyes. Would like to correspond with other TS's in Arizona and California.
Georgia B. (AZ-1012)

Donna M. (NM-1734)

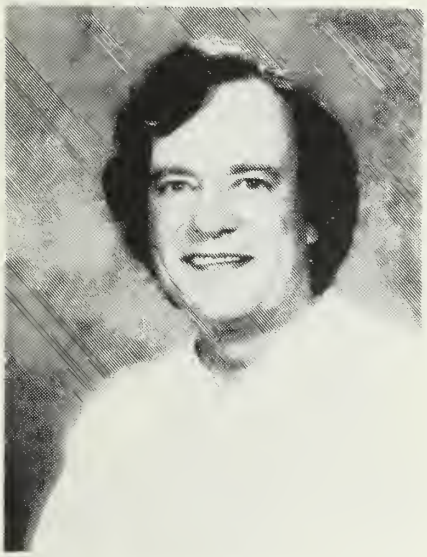
DONNA E. MOBLEY (NM) (#52)
Member: Fiesta Chapter (President)
SWM, 41, 5'10", 150, widower. Fanatic skier/ski racer (10 hdcp). Hobbies include building scale model aircraft, photography, breaking fingernails. Widely traveled, college educated, former military (combat correspondent). Currently working as freelance audio/video/TV producer (no jokes please). Passable in public if it's dark and foggy. Would love to meet or correspond with TV/TC/TSs, can travel anywhere I can reach on a thermos of gas and a tankful of coffee. Promise a reply to all letters. Can't promise to be interesting.
Donna M. (NM-1734)

Cindy W. (AZ-1991)

CINDY (AZ) (#53)
SWM CD, looking for friendship and support from other crossdressers.
Cindy (AZ-1991)

Terri D. (NV-0406)

TERRI D. (NV) (#53)
Member: Tri-Ess
Participant: DREAM, Pajaro Dunes
60, 5'11", 170, aubum hair & gray eyes. History buff. Enjoys old books, and flying, including ultra lights. Also into old coins.
T. Downs, P.O. Box 4116, N. Las Vegas, NV 89030



Glenda J. (NM-1952)

GLENDA RENE JONES (NM) (#53)
Member: Tiffany Club, Tri-Ess
Participant: 'Coming Together'
Married. My wife Linda Phyllis is active and well known in the paraculture. Hobbies include sewing, gormet cooking, and writing. Have been in public many times. Computer engineer by trade and work in the aerospace industry. Look forward to hearing from anyone.
Glenda Rene Jones, Box 13083, Albuquerque, NM 87192-3083

JAMIE R. (AZ) (#55)
59, 6'2", 200, size 20-22, 42C. Professional pilot. Have dressed over 10 years. Dress constantly at home; 100% supportive wife. I confine my activities mostly to the home and tri-ess events. Would never wear my male clothes again if I could.
Jamie R. (AZ-1552)

DANA TODD (NM) (#53)
36, 5'8", 150, light brown hair, light blue eyes. New to therapy, TV for 24 years, probable TS. would like to meet other TV/TSs in Albuquerque area, or within 250 miles. Would like to start TV/TS support group in NM.
Dana T. (NM-2008)

CALIFORNIA

Ren`ee C. (CA-0644)

REN'EE CHEVALIER (S. CA) (#53)
IFGE Board of Directors, "Coming Together" Staff
Participant: P-Town WSG Outing, Wine Country Weekend, 'Coming Together'
Awards: The MSL Service Award
MWM, 5'9, 150, passable, and a supporter and hard worker on gender issues. Interests: varied, including photography and carpentry. "I enjoy helping others and bringing newcomers out into the community."
Ren'ee Chevalier (CA-0644)

DENISE (CA) (#53)
Member: IFGE (new)
I have been a TV all my life. I enjoy dressing a lot. Am 6' tall, married (wife doesn't like it), basically just a nice guy. I want to correspond with and hopefully meet other TVs. It would be nice to find a place where I could dress and socialize without having to spend lots of money on motel rooms all the time.
Denise (CA-1808)

CACY L. (CA) (#52)
M-F pre-op TS, 36, 130, single, advanced degree. Very passable, will soon live as a woman full-time. Would like to hear from and meet other TSs who are making the same transitions, such as combining career changes and gender reassignment.
Cacy L. (CA-1840)

WENDY PARKER (CA) (#53)
Member: CHIC, ETVC, NGWA
Participant: Coming Together, Be All, Fantasia Fair
Awards: Ms. Cinderella 1981
TG, 41, 5'9", 160, fun and passable. Enjoy going out en femme. Would like to meet and correspond with other women, gentle souls, and free femme spirits.
Wendy Parker (CA-0390)

Wendi P. (CA-0390)

Kathie E. (CA-1125)

KATHIE E. (CA) (#53)
5'11" WM, married, closeted. "I enjoy jazz, classical music, dressing in stockings and heels, looking to help with dressing and feminization."
Kathie E. (CA-1125)

TAMARA VELARDE (CA) (#53)
Member: Tri-Ess
Hetero, 37, 5'7". "I am interested in meeting other TVs in the San Francisco area outings and correspondence. I will attempt to answer all correspondence."
Tamara Velarde (CA-0656)

SUZANNE M. LYNCH (S. CA) (#54)
Divorced SWM TV, 49, 6', 160. Interested in complete femininity and being able to pass in all situations. Enjoy computers, video, music, and fashion. Recently divorced; enjoy my opportunities to be Suzanne. Would like to correspond with attractive, passable TV or post-op TS for friendship, meetings, and photo exchange.
Suzanne M. Lynch (CA-2236)

Suzanne L. (CA-2236)

Kelly (CA-2221)

KELLY (S. CA) (#54)

MWM, 38, 5'10", 155. Attractive, passable TV, just started coming out and enjoying every minute that I get to spend as a woman. Hope to eventually live fulltime as a woman but family considerations have priority. Would love to meet GGs, TSs, and passable TVs in So. CA or Las Vegas. Photo, please.

Kelly (CA-2221)

ROXIE HOROWITZ (S. CA) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess, PPOC

SWM TV, 40, 5'8", 160, non-smoker, non-drinker, full of non-sense. I am addicted to wearing high heels - I get high from wearing them. I love going out and being as beautiful as I can be. I also love making fun of people who take themselves too seriously.

I would love to get together with other TVs in CA - however, if I get out to your part of the country, you just may get a surprise visit.

Roxie Horowitz (CA-1636)

Roxie H. (CA-1636)

Betsy B. (CA-1104)

BETSY B. (N. CA) (#52)

Member: ETVC, NWGA, SAGA, Tri-Ess, RGA

Awards: DREAMS - Miss Congeniality

DWM - older TV with considerable experience. Enjoy depicting a well-dressed, dignified older woman without being "stuffy". Love parties and associating with other crossdressers. I answer correspondence.

Betsy B. (CA-1104)

PAULETTE BROWN (S. CA) (#52)

SWM hetero TV seeks correspondence with understanding female.

Paulette B. (CA-1586)

BOBBIE STARR (S. CA) (#53)

MWM, 5'4", 128 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, with TS tendencies. Advanced degree in political science and history; working on degree in spec. education. Interests include good music, gourmet cooking, fine wines, shopping, and sewing (for myself and other TV sisters).

Bobbie Starr, P.O. Box 549, Pasadena, CA 91102

ELLEN MCKINNON (S.CA.) (#54)

Member: Neutral Corner

Married white male, 35, attractive and very passable. Interests: Music, sports, reading, photography, high fashion. "I have been written up in several major publications. Enjoy going out in public in all situations. Would love to meet and go out with all California sisters and to correspond with all who write. I will attempt to answer all correspondence promptly, from my sisters across the country as well."

Ellen McKinnon, Box 261326, San Diego, CA 92126

Ellen Ann M. (CA-1408)

JOYCIE McGINN (CA) (#52)

Member: Tri-Ess, Shangri-La

Participant: Shangri-La, DREAM

Awards: "Miss DREAM" 1st runner-up, "Miss Congeniality".

Interests: Enjoy photo sessions, sports, sports cars, classics, shopping with TVs and TSs. Also gardening, re-decorating apartments, and auto mechanics. "Would love to hear from TVs and TSs, but must send photo. Answer all letters ASAP. Will show girls around S. CA area."

Joycie McGinn (CA-1073)

CHRISTY (CA) (#55)

5'5", small build, 135 lbs., olive skin, dark hair & eyes, dress size 10/11. 39, educated professional. I enjoy running, bicycling, reading, vacationing (especially in Spanish-speaking countries), and being a woman. I love small talk and styles in clothing and grooming. "I have a very supportive and understanding wife. My children don't know , but I make a better mom than dad and everyone sees that. I'm family oriented and a very supportive, humanistic person."

Christy (CA-1839)

SHARYN STEVENS (N. CA) (#54)

SWM TV, born 1960, late 20's, 6', 150 or so, brown hair/eyes. Discreet, intelligent, not bad looking. Enjoys Aikido, peace movement and other liberal/radical politics, computer programming, biology, philosophy and introspection, and learning to cross-dress passably. "I'm not looking for pen pals. Very interested in dating (no smokers please) any of the following: Women (TSs OK) who are favorably disposed to TVs. Female TVs who enjoy role switching. Other TVs with only one of us cross-dressed at a time.

Sharyn Stevens (CA-1472)

Cynthia H. (CA-1453)

CYNTHIA HOWARD (S. CA) (#55)
Member: Tri-Ess
Hetero TV with TS tendencies. Married, outgoing. Enjoys politics, photography, law, aesthetics. Loves to dress & go out & have a good time. "I want to express myself as Cynthia fully & completely and am getting more involved in our Community. Interested in correspondence & meeting TSs, TVs, & couples. We can help each other."
Cynthia Howard, Box 3392, Napa, CA 94558

Ruby (CA-1928)

RUBY (S. CA) (#53)
SWM, 5'8", 136, wishes to meet GGs, F>M TSs, and TVs. Enjoy friendships, art, travel, fashions, science museums, hikes, movies, ESP, culture, and music (most types).
Ruby (CA-1928)

LONI J. (N. CA) (#53)
SWM, CD, 30, 5'10". Interested in model trains, photography, science fiction, good books, mellow music, and camping in my Jeep. Would like to learn to be more feminine. Still in the closet, but would like to come out and enjoy life anew.
Loni J. (CA-1233)

Donna Lynn F. (CA-1664)

DONNA LYNN FREEMAN (CA) (#52)
Member: Tri-Ess, ETVC
Participant: Holiday En Femme '87, Pajaro Dunes
MWM hetero TV, 46, 5'9", 160, size 16, enjoys good food, good friends, good conversation, computers, shopping, and all things feminine. "Lifelong CD recently out of the closet and enjoying every minute. Blessed with understanding and supportive wife. Usually passable and working to get better. Am interested in meeting other TVs for shopping and other excursions. Will answer all."
Donna Lynn Freeman (CA-1664)

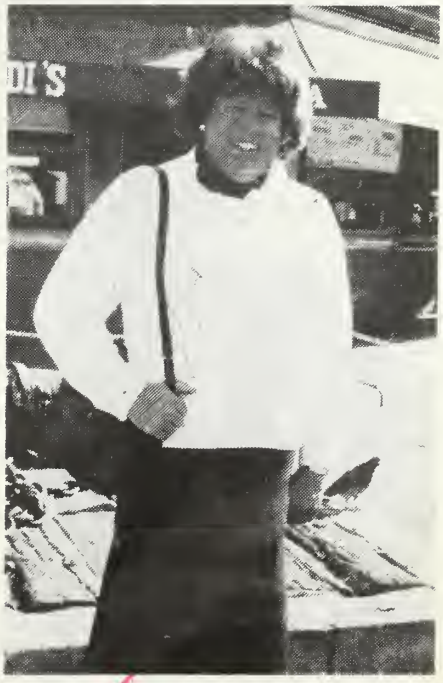
Pieranna D. (CA-1645)

PIERANNA DI MARTINI (S. CA) (#52)
Hetero crossdresser, 25, 5'4", 115, non-smoker, non-drinker, independent filmmaker. "My interests run toward the artistic- filmmaking, writing, acting, drawing. I would like to correspond with TVs and understanding GGs from all over, especially those in Southern California area."
Pieranna DiMartini (CA-1645)

CHARLENE (N. CA) (#52)
Member: EVTC, RGA
Late 30's, passable in daytime, size 14 in dresses. Interests include shopping and gourmet cooking.
Charline (CA-1601)

Tara T. (CA-0752)

TARA TENILLE (N. CA) (#52)
Member: ETVC, Society of Janus (coordinator of Sacramento group)
Outgoing, fun-loving, demanding, very passable pre-TG, who enjoys the finer aspects of my femininity and life. Do you enjoy fine wine, good conversation, sightseeing, travel, four star restaurants, dancing, lazy afternoons by the water, and sincere friends? Then let's meet. Also enjoy meeting gentleman with class who would like to act as my escort for the above activities.
Love to travel and often visit NYC, Boston, LA, Chicago, SF, Seattle, and more. Sorry, but time limits correspondence. Would like to only hear from those who would ultimately be available to meet. Will reply to all who include a quality letter, photo, and self addressed stamped envelope.
Tara Tenille, P.O. Box 13033, Sacramento, CA 95813-3033



Karen K. (CA-0322)

KAREN K. (CA) (#52)

Member: Tri Ess, NWGA, Neutral Corner

SWM hetero TV, 45, 5'9", 182. Pleasant personality who enjoys meeting and writing other sisters. I dress en femme about every day, and I go out dressed as often as possible. I'm comfortable dressed in public, and I pass well. I have gone to restaurants, the theater, etc. dressed, and I will continue in the future because I enjoy expressing my feminine personality. My interests are photography, camping & hiking, all sports, music, reading, theater, and dressing. I also travel a great deal, and so I am able to meet a lot of sisters around the country.

Karen K. (CA-0322)

Elizabeth J. (CA-1030)

ELIZABETH N. JOHNSON (S. CA) (#56)

Pre-op M-F TS, 30's, 6', friendly but shy. Television engineer. Passable with voice, mannerisms & body frame, but in need of makeup & hair styling tips. Interests: Fanatic in fashion sales, indoor plants, sing opera (use my own soprano female voice), computers, bicycles. "Would like to start a friendship with TV's, TV's and others who are warm, friendly and sincere. Write, call, send video tape (any format), or audio cassette."

Elizabeth J. (CA-1030)

Angelique B. (CA-0578)

ANGELIQUE BRUMMELL (S. CA) (#55)

TS-oriented male, femmiphile, feminist, believe in female rule. Health-oriented individual. 5'11", 160, 41, brown hair, blue eyes.

Interests: Paleontology (esp dinosaurs), inflatable boating, cuddling, animals, & helping people. I also love to bake bread. Very refined and correspondingly difficult to get along with. Agreeable, caring, and compassionate. Possibly excessively honest and still naive. "I'm very spiritual but am unable to identify myself fully with any religious organization yet experienced."

Angelique G. Brummell, 1001 Bailard Ave, Apt 1, Carpinteria, CA 93013

FLO JAMES (S. CA) (#52)

6'4", 230, hetero, 43, married, educated professional, closeted, discreet. Enjoys photography, psychology, scuba diving, travel. Would like to meet similar individual going through mid-life crisis, for friendship & fun.

Flo J. (CA-1045)

Anne B. (CA-1590)

ANNE BLACKWOOD (S. CA) (#52)

Member: CHIC

Eurasian hetero male, 34, 6', BA Dramatic Arts. Interests: Building things (furniture and clothing), writing fiction, understanding the world (politics, environment), psychology, music, science and technology. "I'm a 90's woman, egalitarian, not attached to feminine stereotypes. My yin and yang being well integrated, I am able to draw both on my masculine and feminine strengths. Interested in hearing from anyone who can write a good letter and from those in the LA area interested in going clubbing or to other cultural events."

Anne Blackwood, P.O. Box 1251, Beverly Hills, CA 90213-1251

JULIA K. (S. CA) (#52)

M-F GD, 43, 5'8", 175, Swedish/German. Jodo Shinshu Buddhist, in a great relationship with understanding woman. In extremely masculine & hostile public service profession. Involved in intensive neo-Reichian (Radix) therapy, electrolysis and living. 2 adult children. Interests: Personal relationships, clothing/jewelry/makeup, people, world travel, music, the fine arts, home remodeling, world peace, humanistic psychology, personal & spiritual growth, natural psychedelics & post modern shamanism... "I plan to travel & live in China & Japan in the near future. I also need to contact form M-F TS's (women) to help me with my decision making process regarding surgery or not."

Julia K. (CA-1685)

Susan D. (CA-1822)

SUSAN DAGGETT (CA) (#52)

Member: Gender Dysphoria Program of Orange County

6', curly brown hair, beautiful hazel eyes, 43 years young. "My life-long transsexual "battle" is finally turning open and peaceful. I enjoy personal computing, hiking, scuba diving, and being feminine!

Susan Daggett (CA-1822)

Marlene (CA-1036)

MARLENE (CA) (#53)

Participant: Holiday En Femme '87

Awards: Tri-Ess Distinguished Service Award '87

55, 5'11, 150. Professional; divorced, "but cohabiting with an understanding lady. I dress en femme most of the time when home. I work frequently in the Tri-Ess National Office. I enjoy bicycling and tennis."

Marlene (CA-1036)

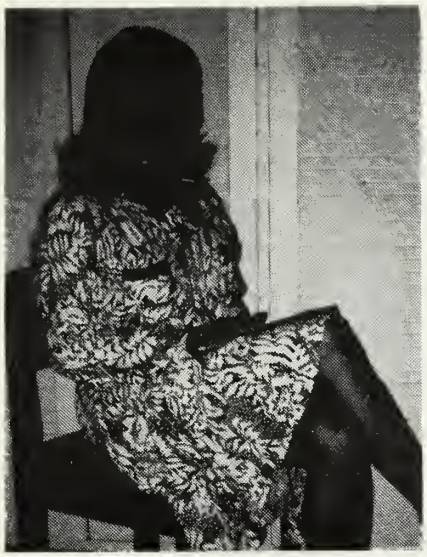
Lorraine H. (CA-1150)

LORRAINE ELLEN HALL (CA) (#53)
Member: ETVC, Tri-Ess
Participant: Holiday En Femme
"After years of suppression, I find my feminine psyche becoming ever more dominant. Serious interest in SRS. "I am conservative and enjoy being treated like a lady. Like correspondence and gossiping with others of similar feelings. Love shopping, theater, music, writing, sewing, and even housekeeping."
Lorraine Ellen Hall (CA-1150)

Vicki (CA-1925)

VICKI (CA) (#53)
Member: Tri-Ess, Powder Puff
6'2", 240, probably passable except for bulk. Love ultra-high heels; have large collection. Will respond promptly with current photo to all.
Vicki (CA-1925)

SARAH THOMSEN (N. CA) (#52)
Member: RGA
WM, 27, blonde, blue eyes. Looking for TV-TS contacts for all types, looking to further understand myself. Would like to hear from open minded women. Enjoy dressing as a young girl.
Sarah T. (CA-1727)



Lynne L. (CA-1684)

LYNNE LAND (S. CA) (#53)
38, 6'1", 180, communicative, single caring lady into classy, casual dress with understated elegant feminine side. Looking for TV friends for meeting/sharing here in Orange County. Serious caring realistic ladies looking to share our fem personalities/experiences will be answered.
Lynne L. (CA-1684)

Nancy W. (CA-1374)

NANCY WILSON (S. CA) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess, Neutral Corner, ETVC
5'9", 150, dark hair & eyes. Creator of Crowning Glory Wigs for crossdressers in partnership with Mona (owner of shop).
Nancy Wilson, c/o Crowning Glory Wigs, P.O. Box 40366, San Diego, CA 92104

JESSICA MERTEN (CA) (#53)
Member: Neutral Corner
Pre-op TS; live & work full-time as female. Others say I'm very pretty and passable. Will correspond with like individuals.
Jessica Merten, Box 9475, Palm Springs, CA 92263

Janet E. (CA-1102)

JANET EDWARDS (S CA) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
Participant: 'Coming Together'
Hetero TV, 38, 5'9", 155, dark brown hair, musician (drummer in the 'Mr. Sister Band' which performed at 'Coming Together 1989' and was featured in 'Ladylike'). I am passable and go just about anywhere I want with no problem. Hobbies are shopping, and movies. Looking for CDs to go out with in the LA area.
B. Knipfer, 13624 Sherman Way #279, Van Nuys, CA 91405

RACHEL (CA) (#52)
Professional, married, 49. "I've been TV since age 5, never really came to grips with it (always thought I could whip it) until recently - now I know who I am and how much a part of me the "other" is.
Rachel (CA-1811)

ROXANNE R. (CA) (#54)
DWM TV, 37, 6'1", 240. Lifetime TV, closeted. Enjoy shopping, dressing, music, frills, lace, golf, and pool. Would like to correspond and meet with other CDs, TSs, or men interested in such. "I am a very open and loving person. Will answer all who write. Live in the Inland Empire area."
Roxanne R. (CA-2174)

LAURA R. COVINGTON (N CA) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
DBM, hetero, 40, 5'8", 154, attractive, sincere, friendly. Enjoys fashion, photography, movies, video, music, reading, sports, sports cars, auto racing. I would like to correspond and meet other TVs or TSs and

ladies that understand. I enjoy making new friends throughout the U.S. I love sharing with others the joys of trying to look as feminine as possible.

Laura Covington, Box 10431, Oakland, CA 94610

Laura C. (CA-0480)

Kitty P. (CA-1961)

UNA PERSSON (KITTY) (S CA) (#53)

Friendly, passable, sweet and flirty, at times highly energetic yet very sincere. Enjoys music, photography and various medias of artistic expression. Interested in meeting other sincere individuals, sharing experiences, going out and fun times. Will answer all correspondence.

Una Persson, P.O. Box 10118, Santa Ana, CA 92711

RITA F. (S CA) (#53)

Member: Crossroads, TransPitt, ETVC, Paradise

Participant: 'Be All'

Enjoys expressing fem self. Travels entire country. Builds racing engines, loves music and the arts. When in L.A. call.

Rita F. (CA-0600)

JOAN SHELDON (N CA) (#53)

IFGE Board of Directors (Alt)

Member: ETVC (co-founder)

MWM, hetero, 60's, a pleasant dowager. Enjoys friendship of TVs & spouses who are out of the closet & proud of the fact. Also enjoys flying, sailing, a computer freque. Enjoys contact with self-accepting TVs. Sponsors TV weekend retreats at a beach community and at Lake Tahoe. Holds events 4 times a year. Purpose: social interaction & development of feminine persona & feminine deportment.

Joan S. (CA-0391)

Donna D. (CA-1895)

DONNA DIXON (N CA) (#53)

Member: ETVC

Married TV, 33, 5'6", 150, brown hair & eyes, and loves all things femme. Living in SF Bay area. Enjoys corresponding, trading photos, fantasies, etc. Write soon!

Donna D. (CA-1895)

GLORIA B. (NE CA) (#53)

6'3", 300+, BBTV. Would like to hear from other hetero TVs in the Reno area.

Gloria B. (CA-1897)

CATHY ANN GREENE (S CA) (#52)

MWM hetero, 53, crossdressing since early teens. Loves to dress and go out on rare and wonderful occasions to shopping malls. Wife of many years recently found out. Tolerant but not supportive yet. Recently started corresponding. Enjoy the equanimity it brings.

Cathy G. (CA-1896)

JOANNA ALICE GAYLORD (S CA) (#53)

6'2", blue eyes, long auburn hair, currently opulently obese, but losing weight. After losing both parents, gaining arthritis & asthma, at least I am blessed with an understanding supportive wonderful wife, and a new year of hope.

Joanna G. (CA-2066)

Juanita G. (CA-1974)

JUANITA GALLO (S CA) (#53)

Member: PPOC, ETVC

Participant: 'Coming Together', Shangri La

MW TV, 5'11", 175, brown eyes, usually black hair (depends on wig), very passable, extrovert. Enjoys dressing in good fashion, going out and being a nice lady. Interested in photography, computers, piano music. Have travelled extensively and dressed up in all major foreign cities. Would like to meet or correspond with ladies with similar interests.

Juanita Gallo, P.O. Box 4204, Huntington Beach, CA 92605

Sharon M. (CA-2028)

SHARON LOUISE M. (N CA) (#54)

Member: Renaissance

5'6", 165, white hair, hazel eyes, ruddy complexion. I have been a crossdresser most of my life and am no school girl by any stretch of the imagination. (My age is my secret.) Am well read and a good conversationalist. Am a former semi-pro baseball player, a good bowler, roller skater, and dancer. Been wearing corsets since early age, but didn't dress completely until my 30's. Would love to correspond and possibly meet others in my area.

J.C. Morgan, P.O. Box 537, Yountville, CA 94599

Melissa F. (CA-2099)

MELISSA M. FOSTER (S. CA) (#54)
Member: Feminine Image, PPOC, ETVC, NWGA, Alpha Zeta, A Rose, Neutral Corner, Tri-Ess
Participant: "Coming Together"
Cute TV, 42, 5'10", 185. BS degree in engineering, USAF Reserve. I travel extensively around the world and enjoy meeting & writing other sisters. I enjoy going out and expressing my femme personality. Enjoy music, dancing, sports. Write for several gender publications. Enjoy travelling, having fun, and being involved in activities that will help my sisters and friends learn and grow.
Melissa Foster, P.O. Box 816, Lakewood, CA 90714

LISA MAXWELL (N CA) (#53)
SWM hetero TV, 35, 5'8", 150, slim, just coming out of the closet. Enjoys fashion, reading, bicycling, sailing, shopping, integrating male and female.
Lisa M. (CA-1965)

GARY C. (N CA) (#53)
Single Asian bi- male, 32, 5'10", 165, attractive, masculine, articulate, gentle, open minded, a little shy. An ex-NYer, ivy educated, professional. Enjoys high & pop culture, tradition vs modernity, music, architecture, gender & sexuality, sci-fi, body work, travel. I've been a reluctant romeo with GG's because I've dreamt of meeting a pretty and passable TV/TS. I seek someone intelligent, sane, elegant and sensual with whom I could share thoughts, warmth, and the support and appreciation a man and woman can have for each other. All answered; photo appreciated.
Gary C. (CA-1983)

JILLIAN S. (N CA) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
DWM, 22, 6', 155, straight TV stationed in Long Beach, CA. Decent looking as a guy, but haven't gotten out yet to have feedback as a woman. Love sci-fi/fantasy, Rocky Horror, comic books, beaches, dancing, shopping (passionately), and having a good time. Want to start getting out, meeting other TV/TSs for friendship.
Jillian S. (CA-2040)

Shirlee G. (CA-2088)

SHIRLEE G. (N. CA) (#54)
Member: ETVC, RGA
SWM (widower), 50's, 5'10", 220, well educated. Closeted bi-TV, dressing since age 9. Looking for friendly TVs, women, and men willing to help me pass in public. Like to dress with style and class, but need understanding friends. Hope for a little romance in the process. Will try to answer all.
Shirlee G. (CA-2088)

TERRI CANNON (S. CA) (#54)
MWM, 5'11", 40's, well educated, sensitive, discreet, stable. Good sense of humor. Enjoys cooking, fine arts, photography (have taught classes), 'New Age' philosophy, psychology, film, tennis, golf. Due to family, I do not dress at home, but do have secure place to dress occasionally. Enjoy being supportive friend to other TV/TSs. Appreciate a natural look, warmth, honesty, humor. Long term friendships possible. All replies answered!"
Terri C. (CA-1293)

JAN (CA) (#55)
Member: IFGE
WM, 45, 6', 180, blonde, blue eyes. Still in the closet - yearning to come out, but afraid - consider myself a "male lesbian".
Jan (CA-2210)

MARILYN CAMPBELL (CA) (#54)
Young, energetic, creative TS. Sincere, sensitive, intelligent. Will correspond with anyone. Possible meeting in the LA area. "Life is short, so it should be as full as possible."
Marilyn Campbell (CA-2195)

Renee C. (CA-1372)

RENEE CHINQUAPIN (N. CA) (#54)
Member: ETVC
Participant: "Coming Together"
Am currently training as a counselor and plan to work within the gender community. Am interested in networking with other counselors. Also interested in vacation exchange in So. England, France, Switzerland or Italy.
Renee Chinquapin, 200 Troll Ridge, Willits, CA 95490

Arlene R. (CA-2273)

ARLENE ROSEN (N CA) (#54)
TG, 5'6", 160, blue eyes, brown hair, crossdressing since age 6. Enjoys people, clothes, cooking, the world and life in general. I do not have any TG or TV friends because of my lack of courage. This I would like to change. All letters will be answered ASAP. Please, let's get to know one another.
Arlene R. (CA-2273)

WASHINGTON - OREGON - HAWAII - ALASKA

Sandy S. (WA-1022)

SANDY S. (WA) (#52)

Hetero WM, 5'11". Enjoys the total feminine look - heels, stockings, dresses. Also enjoys get together's and going out. Would like to meet others for going out and blending with others.

Sandy S. (WA-1022)

Mary G. (WA-1826)

MARY GIBBONS (WA) (#52)

Member: Emerald City, NWGA

Participant: Tri-Ess Holidays, Fantasia Fair '88

6'0", 160, happily married, daughter in college. Enjoy plays, concerts, and cultural events, reading, music of all kinds. Am learning about synthesizers. NOT interested in hunting, football, rebuilding old cars, or (for that matter) knitting. "I am interested in presenting myself as a complete woman; not particularly in one aspect over another. Since coming out five years ago, I have done far more than I ever dreamed possible in my fantasies."

Mary Gibbons, Box 1151, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Ellen S. (OR-0382)

ELLEN SUMMERS (OR) (#53)

IFGE Board of Directors, Vice-Chrprsn Board of Directors, Chrprsn Nominations Committee.

Member: NWGA, ETVC, Emerald City

Awards: "DREAM" Grand Dame '83

Interests: Travel ad big band era music - have large collection of '40's, '50's, and '60's recordings. Late 50's, married with three children, all know of Ellen and understand. "I will answer all letters addressed to me or to NWGA".

Ellen S., c/o NWGA, Box 4928, Portland, OR 92708-4928

PRISCILLA LAVISH (OR) (#52)

Member: NWGA

5'10", 155, blue eyes, playful, a little flirty, attractive, a little flashy. Enjoys jazz, dinners out, process oriented (client centered) psychology, personal growth, integration of self. Wants to move towards performing. Needs to study dance & movement more.

Priscilla Lavish, P.O. Box 23021, Eugene, OR 97402-0424

JUDY OSBORNE (WA) (#52)

Participant: Fantasia Fair 1987; Seattle and Portland meetings.

5'11, 155, mostly closeted for now. "Previously troubled daughter now living back at home and doing well at last. I miss the sisters a lot and look forward to rejoining their company."

Judy Osborne, Box 19394, Seattle, WA 98109

MICHELLE W. (WA) (#53)

Wife of a crossdresser for 17 years. Have known of his desires for a relatively short time. Need to correspond with other wives for information and support.

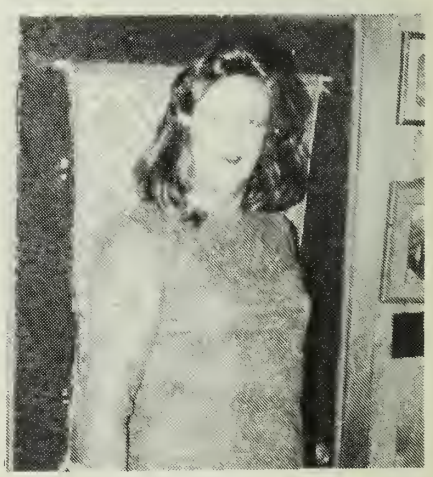
Michelle W. (WA-1959)

Stacy C. (OR-1806)

STACY CLEMENT (OR) (#56)

MWM TV, 6', 190, green eyes, aubum hair (long enough to wear naturally). Very passable. Professional photographer. I especially love photo sessions with TV friends. Enjoy shopping, cooking, wine, food, and friends. "I've been around the TV scene for years and would like to exchange stories, tales, and the like with you!"

Ms. Stacy Clement, 3012 NE Hoyt, Box B, Portland, OR 97232



Sarah W. (WA-2027)

SARAH WALL (WA) (#53)

DWM hetero TV, 6', 180. Dark hair, blue eyes; size 18, professional. Enjoys photography, back packing, classical music, reading, cooking, sewing, travel. I am newly out of the closet and would like to form friendships in the Northwest and world-wide. Can travel and entertain. All answered. Photo appreciated.

Sarah Wall, P.O. Box 766, Issaquah, WA 98027

JACKALYN MCNEAL (WA) (#53)
Pre-op TS, 29, 5'11", 157, blonde, blue eyes. Looking to write/talk and mingle with others who share some of the same things I have gone through since I was 11 years old.
Jackalyn Mc. (WA-1986)

Paula S. (WA-1973)

PAULA S. (WA) (#53)
Member: Emerald City
Tall, slender, friendly & outgoing. Passable & experienced crossdresser. Very suppoertive spouse. We enjoy meeting & going out with other CD's, especially couples, & we love to correspond.
Paula S., 540-C NE Northgate Way, #505, Seattle, WA 98125

JEAN G. (WA) (#54)
WM, 5'11", 175. Enjoys feminine underwear all the time, dress up completely, but only in private on occasion. Non-supportive wife, although she knows. Will answer all letters.
Jean G. (WA-1331)

MELISSA P. (WA) (#53)
MWM TV, 5'10", 190, 55, non-supportive wife. Enjoys sewing, art, dancing square & round, woodworking. Would like to hear from TVs just coming out.
Melissa P. (WA-2102)

CHERYL (WA) (#55)
Married, 44, 5'2", blonde. Enjoy swing music, golf, video, 40's fashions, bowling, lingerie, TV literature. AA member; 15 years sober. Love to write letters and share experiences. Will answer all correspondence.
Cheryl Gregory, 177 Telegraph Road #440, Bellingham, WA 98226

Sally R. (WA-1292)

SALLY RAY (WA) (#54)
Member: NWGA, Emerald City
MWM, 34, 5'8", 165, blue eyes, professional. I am a small town girl that makes it to the "big city" (Portland or Seattle) 5 or 6 times a year for 3-day weekends. I pass well day or night and love to shop and party. I have experienced the thrill of many "firsts" in the last 2 years, and now want to concentrate on developing my feminine interests.
Sally Ray, P.O. Box 1383, Walla Walla, WA 99362

KYNDEL FAY MERCEDES (AK) (#54)
Member: Berdache Society (Chrprsn & IFGE Rep)
Warm, expressive transgendered person enjoying the process of being and becoming Kyndel Fay. Married with a life partner who is most supportive. Interests: Psychology, anthropology, transcendental metaphysics, honest sharing friendship, developing my femininity, and hearing from you. Not much is clear, but this much is certain, I'm glad I'm out. Will answer all who write.
Kyndel Fay Mercedes, Box 113162, Anchorage, AK 99511

STEPHANIE (WA) (#53)
Member: Alternatives (President)
Preop M-F TS, close to fulltime life as a woman. Very passable and feminine; work as an image consultant. Would like to correspond with other TSs and TVs around the country. Looking for the right man. Will answer all letters.
Stephanie (WA-2127)

Clara Ann B. (HI-0955)

CLARA ANN BULLARD (HI) (#55)
Member: Delta Chi chapter Tri-Ess
60, 6', 195. Have dressed since youth. Love being a woman and every part of feminine life. Have been out many times - window shopping, walking, sitting at bus stops, etc. Feel very comfortable with other CDs. "Let's face it - we all love being a woman and being called a lady."
Clara Ann Bullard (HI-0955)

PHYLIS D. (HI) (#55)
6', 66, blonde, green eyes. Enjoys music, reading, art - interior decoration, cooking. When dressed, I present a subdued dignified exterior. I think I look younger than my age. My attitudes toward life are not always dignified! I have aquick sense of humor, expecially when directed at myself. I like people - including me!
Philip L. Davis, 444 Nahua, #1610, Honolulu, HI 96815

DONNA S. (AK) (#55)
Member: Berdache Society
Married life-long TV, 5'9", 33, 145. Life-long alaskan, enjoy being dressed en femme in public, short skirts, and meeting people, and hearing from people.
Donna S. (AK-2247)

CANADA

Micheline J. (CAN-0560)

MICHELINE JOHNSON (ON CAN) (#54)
Member: FACT-Ottawa
Gentle, sensitive, affection-starved woman (white pre-op M-F TS, born 1930's, hormones since 1979) seeking romantic relationship with caring man, correspondence or in person, preferably in eastern Canada or northeastern U.S. I would be attracted to non-smoking, intellectually inclined, articulate special person interested in the arts, travel, romance, dancing, hugging, dinners by candle-light. Write with photo, phone number to:
Micheline Johnson, P.O. Box 9155, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3T9

CAROLYN ALEXANDER (ON CAN) (#53)
I'm a 40-something attractive and sophisticated bi WMM CD, well and truly educated with a sensuous, caring attitude. I pass easily and love to be totally feminine. Looking for intimate friendship with readers having similar make-up who wish to meet or correspond.
Carolyn Alexander, Box 7115, Vanier PO, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1L 8E3

LINDA JENSEN (ON CAN) (#52)
Now single, early 40's, tall, medium build, travel a fair bit, enjoy sports, video, photography, and cross-dressing. Will be free to travel from summer '89 to summer '90. Would like to meet other TVs and share experiences.
Linda Jensen, Box 15855, Stn. F, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2C-3S7

JOAN BRIDGEMAN (CAN) (#55)
Member: Tiffany, Transition Support, CGS, ETVC, Boulton & Park.
Participant: IFGE Convention '88, '89, Texas Tea Party '89, Be-All '88, 89.
Middle age M-F TS. "I am very poor at answering letters because I am too busy and enjoy travelling. However, please feel free to call me if you are in Toronto."
Joan Bridgeman (CAN-0565)

YVETTE DUCHARME (QUE CAN) (#55)
Member: Tri-Ess, Tiffany, IFGE
Participant: Fantasia Fair 1989
DWM, hetero, 49, 5'11". Live alone. Interests: All about makeup ad femme things, travel (especially security aspects), reading, listening to music, shooting, and race cars. "I enjoy corresponding very much. My femme personality is classical type. Relaxed and open to discussion. Would like to correspond and form new friendships."
Yvette D. (CAN-1632)

ALLISON JENNIFER BRENT (AL CAN) (#52)
Member: Tri-Ess
Hetero CD, 175, 62. Married to a wonderful gal who is aware of CD interests but prefers to remain uninvolved. Interests include music of the big band era, canoeing, walking, reading and writing to sisters. "But more than anything else, I enjoy being Allison! I have never ventured forth en femme, but am looking forward to doing so."
Allison J. Brent (CAN-1656)

SARAH GEDDIS (AL CAN) (#54)
Participant: Be All Weekend '89
Member: Phi Sigma, Calgary, Alberta (charter)
Hetero TV, 36, married to an understanding and terrific and understanding lady. Interests: photography, camping, computers, people. Member Tri-Ess. Several of us have formed a club for hetero CDs in Calgary, Alberta. Anyone interested contact:
Phi Sigma, Box 2546, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada T1A 8G8.

Mary Lou H. (CAN-0440)

MARY LOU H. (AL CAN) (#54)
Member: Tri Ess, ETVC, NWGA
Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E, Tri Ess Holiday, Shangri La, 'Be All'
SWM hetero TV, retired, 5'8", size 12, musician, loves concerts, drama, nature, museums, traveling. Stylish dresser with fine wardrobe. Will meet hetero TVs and understanding girls/ladies. I love correspondence and exchange of pictures. Will answer all.
Mary Lou H. (CAN-0440)

LOUISE M. (BC CAN) (#55)
Member: Tri-Ess
Participant: Holiday En Femme (Chicago), Tiffany P-Town Outing, Be-All (Chicago)
SWM, TV, 135, well-educated, attractive and neat, very fit 60-ish. Enjoy downhill and cross-country skiing, cycling, golf, music (symphonic to "soul"), theatre, good books, everything feminine, and making the most of each passing day. "I enjoy corresponding with my sisters and am a conscientious correspondent. I dress very frequently at home and love going out as my other self. I feel relaxed and confident as a woman."
Louise M. (CAN-1787)

Julie F. (CAN-1665)

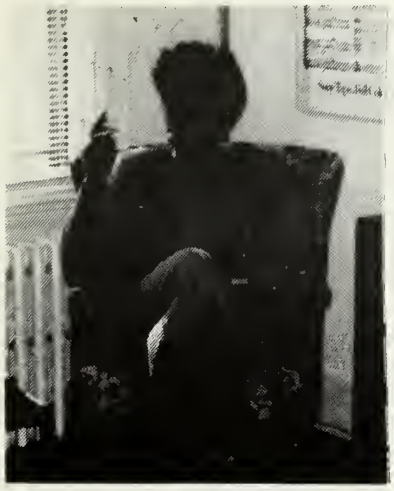
JULIE FASHIONS (BC-CAN) (#55)
SWM, 5'9", 164, 42, blue eyes, trim figure. Works publicly as male, lives privately as female. Loves shopping and all things feminine. Will correspond with others who are TV/TS.
Julie Fashions (CAN-1665)

Dianne V. (CAN-2017)

DIANNE VERLAINE (QUE) (#53)
SWM hetero TV, 26, 5'10", 140, still in closet. Interests: Reading, writing & collecting books. Although I have been crossdressing since childhood I am only now beginning to come to terms with my TV feelings. Would very much like to share my thoughts, experi-

ences, & dreams with others. Promise to answer all.

Dianne Verlaine, P.O. Box 608, N.D.G. Post Office, Montreal, QUE H4A 3R1 CANADA



Lisa S. (CAN-1909)

LISA DANIELLE S. (ON) (#53)

Member: TV-Guys, GIC Toronto

35, 5'11", 170, brown hair, blue eyes, single TV all my life. Enjoy music, art, theatre, long walks, good conversation, candlelight dinners, going out as often as possible. Like to meet other TVs or understanding person for companionship. Can travel and entertain.

L.D. Stroud, P.O. Box 1258 Sta. "A", Hamilton, ON L8N 4B4 CANADA

KAREN HOPE (CAN) (#55)

Member: Tri-ess.

Participant: Local Tri-Ess functions.

41, married, 2 children, professional. Finally emerging after struggle since age 4. My wife and my local Tri-Ess group are supportive. I'm here!

Karen Hope, Box 8282, Alta Vista Station, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H7

BONNIE SMITH (NB-CAN) (#52)

TV, 5'9", 34, 150. Enjoy all aspects of crossdressing, especially lingerie & corsetry. "I would like to correspond with and meet other TVs or TSs in the Fredrickton area. All replies answered."

Bonnie Smith (CAN-1958)

ROBYN H. (ON) (#53)

Member: Tri-Ess

35, 5'8", 157, brunette, single, self employed. Have crossdressed since childhood. Prefer a contemporary look to a flashy look. Like to venture outside at night when possible. Have great legs. Need understanding girlfriend; but then, who doesn't?

R. Howe, Box 43, St Catharines, ON L2R 6R4 CANADA

RUTH SCHOFIELD (ON) (#53)

Member: FACT-Toronto

5'8", 158, blonde, blue eyes. Wife supportive & understanding. Love to dress in evening wear, heels, nylons, corsets. Read a lot, interested in novels about enforced CD, but can't find any. Needs help coming out and passing in public.

Ruth S. (CAN-1917)

REBECCA W. (ON) (#54)

Member: Monarch Social Club, Transition Support

Single, mid 30's, 6'2", 155, reddish brown hair. I would like to communicate with others who are either TV-TS or sincerely interested for social and supportive ideas. I have been living a long time alone as a TV and know the isolation one goes through. I am very sincere and discreet. I have a small apartment, and can travel or entertain on a small basis. Please write soon.

R. Wenman, 124 Tupper Cr, Apt #203, Kitchener, ON N2B 2X9 CANADA

ENGLAND

CELIA SCOTT-SHEPARD

Member: Beaumont Society

Widower, 5'9", 152. Occasional TV from age 4 to partner's death. Now getting more deeply involved. Interested especially in language and music. Would like to receive audio tapes in exchange for my "first and second voices".

Celia S. (ENG-1904)

EUROPE

HELEN S. (FRANCE) (#55)

Member: Trans-CCL (Paris)

TV, 57, 5'11", blonde. Enjoy everything feminine. Interests: classical music, arts, reading, biking. Especially enjoy writing or meeting with sisters and understanding ladies. Wish contact with other European members.

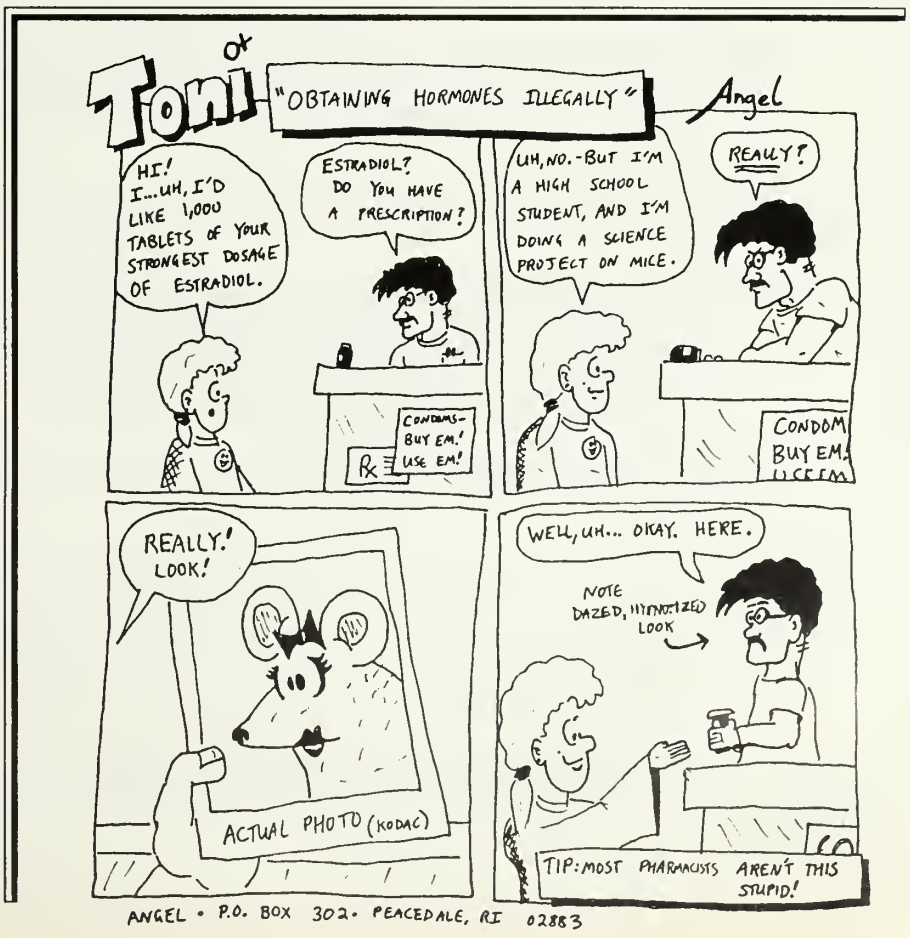
Helen S. (FRA-2178)

Helen S. (FRA-2178)

SUSAN JEAN SMITH (W. GERMANY) (#55)

Attractive TS w/great legs, 5'9", well-built and educated, seeking husband, friends, and job. Would like to meet men who would consider a serious and permanent relationship with me. Interests include SRS, intelligent people, and creative writing.

Susan Jean Smith (GER-2235)



55 INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION
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IFGE is a non-profit organization serving the transvestite/transsexual (TV/TS) community, those persons affected by, and those serving that Community. Its services include, but are not limited to: A network of support organizations and services world-wide, information distribution, publication of 'the TV-TS Tapestry Journal' and other educational publications, and sponsorship of international conventions and educational programs.

The TV-TS Tapestry Journal is a tasteful and comprehensive journal for all persons interested in the TV-TS phenomena. It contains articles, editorials, letters, a large personal listings section, a constantly updated directory of organizations and services, and much more. The Tapestry is intended to be a source of up-to-date information and support, and to be a communications medium and unifying factor for the crossdressing/transsexual community world-wide.

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PERSONAL LISTINGS OBJECTIVES:

1.) To provide a means of introduction, outreach, and communication for members of the International Foundation for Gender Education. (General Subscribers and Supporting Members are considered members of I.F.G.E.)
2.) To provide non-members with a source of support and communication.
3.) To provide the general public with a better understanding of the nature of the crossdressing and transsexual phenomena, and of the people who are members of that community.

WHO MAY PLACE A PERSONAL LISTING:

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2.) Your personal listing will be in 'the Tapestry' and will continue to be published for the duration of your subscription. You may withdraw or change your listing at any time.
3.) No sexually oriented wording or photos will be accepted.
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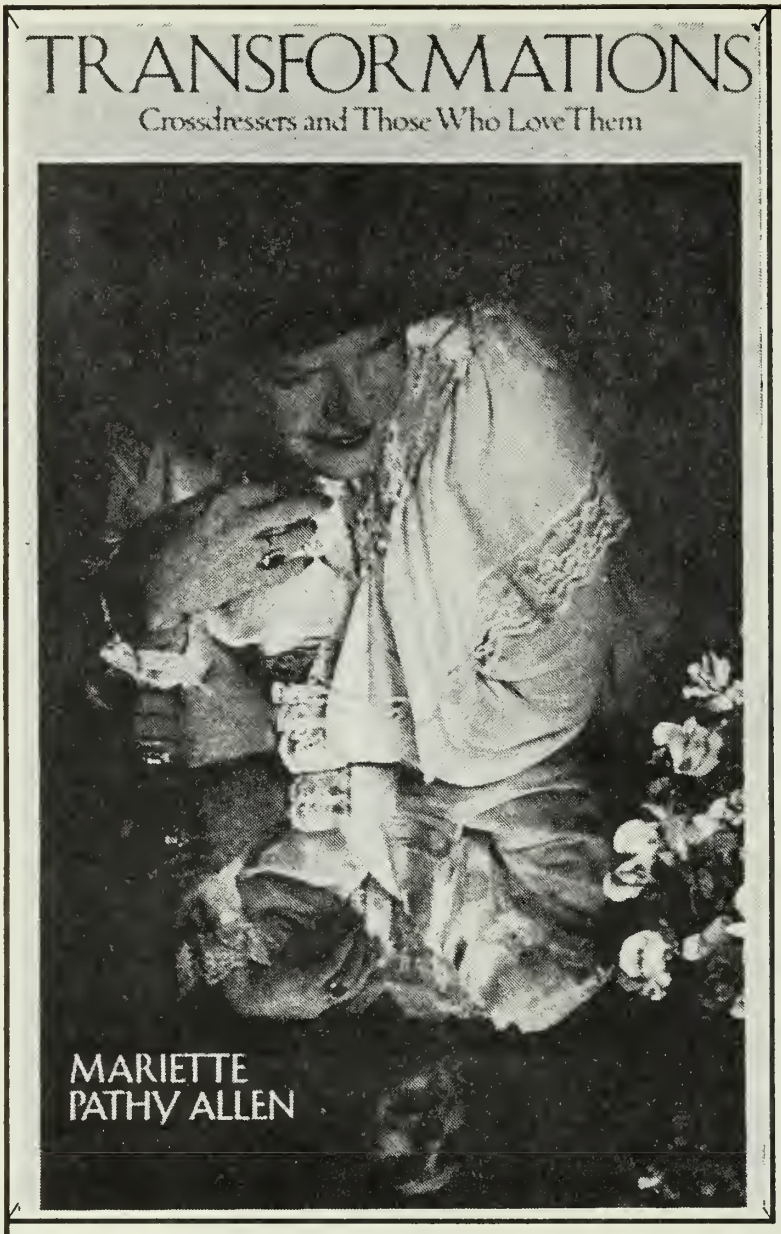

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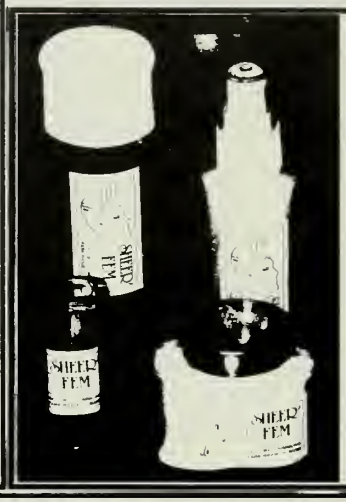

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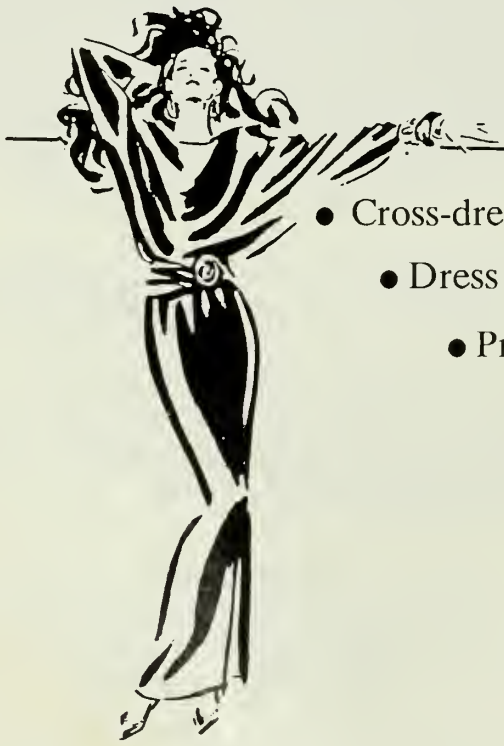

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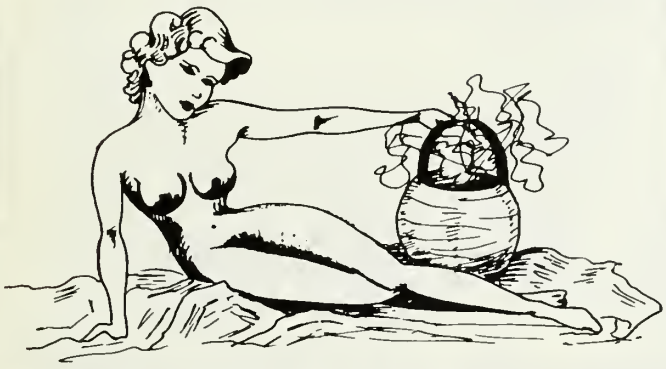

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